

森田まさのり

忙しい時ほど気が散る。普段はめったに見る事のない本をわざわざ開いてみたり、机の引き出しを整理してみたりする。気分転換というわけではない。何故か無性に気になるのだ。辛い仕事から逃げようとしているのかもしれない。実は今もすごく原稿が遅れている状態でこのコメントを書いている。しかもさっきまで、どうでもいいCDのライナーを読んでいたりした。やばい。そして更に今、横に置いてあるイチローのフィギュアの腕の角度が気になっている。いいから仕事しろって。

●週刊少年ジャンプ・H14年30号、32号～34号、36号～39号、41号～43号掲載分収録

LOVE
J・C

JUMP COMICS

21

普通の川藤

ROOKIES

ルーキーズ

21

森田まさのり

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ジャンプ・コミックス

選手の気持ちを無視した笹崎高校・千葉監督の管理野球に対し、ニコガクは徹底した攻めの姿勢で終盤に臨む。そして9回裏、最高の舞台を用意されて、遂にニコガクの秘密兵器である、あの「サヨナラ男」が登場する!!

ROOKIES

ジャンプ・コミックス ★各巻とも好評発売中!!

BASTARD!!	1～22	萩原一至
SLAM DUNK	1～31	井上雄彦
ジョジョの奇妙な冒険	1～63	荒木飛呂彦
ジョジョの奇妙な冒険 Part3 スターダストクルセイダース	1～13	荒木飛呂彦
るろうに剣心 -明治剣客浪漫譚-	1～28	和月伸宏
ONE PIECE	1～25	尾田栄一郎
シャーマンキング	1～21	武井宏之
遊☆戯☆王	1～30	高橋和希
人形草紙あやつり左近	1～4	写楽麿・小畑健
ヒカルの碁	1～19	ほったゆみ・小畑健
MIND ASSASSIN	1～5	かずはじめ
ROOKIES	1～21	森田まさのり
HUNTER×HUNTER	1～15	冨樫義博
ホイッスル!	1～22	樋口大輔
テニスの王子様	1～15	許斐剛
NARUTO -ナルト-	1～14	岸本斉史
I'll ～アイル～	1～11	浅田弘幸
わたるがぴゅん!	1～54	なかいま強
ダブル・ハード	1～26	今野直樹
つきあってよ!五月ちゃん	1～5	林崎文博
Mr.Clice(ミスタークリス) Part Ⅰ～4		秋本治
こちら葛飾区亀有公園前派出所	1～132	秋本治
鳥山明○作劇場	1～3	鳥山明
快傑蒸気探偵団	1～8	麻宮騎亜
GODAGUN	1～14	片倉・M・政憲
魔砲使い黒姫	1	片倉・M・政憲
風飛び一斗	1～11	門馬もと
明智将之介探偵社	1～2	小川浩司
ガンリュウ	1～6	山根和俊
増田こうすけ劇場 ギャグマンガ日和	1～3	増田こうすけ
覇王やすのり	1～2	桑森陽太
BLACK CAT	1～10	矢吹健太朗
ポポポーポ・ポーポポ	1～7	澤井啓夫
DRAGON DRIVE	1～5	佐倉ケンイチ
ピューと吹く!ジャガー	1～3	うすた京介
Mr.FULLSWING	1～6	鈴木信也
END ZONE	1	えんどコイチ
BLEACH	1～5	久保帯人
CLAYMORE	1～3	八木教広
なんだかコワレ丸	1～2	矢也晶久
あやかし天馬	1～2	柴田亜美
ファイアーエムブレム 覇者の剣	1～2	井沢ひろし・山田孝太郎
ぎゃ～ソワカ～	1～3	東直輝
サクラテツ対話篇	上・下巻	藤崎竜
いちご100%	1～2	河下水希
綺流斗～キルト～	1	池田晃久
プリティフェイス	1	叶恭弘
冒険王ビィト	1	中島諭宇樹・稲田浩司 原案

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ROOKIES

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集英社

ジャンプ・コミックス

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JUMP COMICS

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

21 普通の川藤（ふつうのかわとう）



森田まさのり

STUDIO Kitaman SINCE 1989















Previously on Rookies

The hot blooded teacher Kawato revived the once suspended baseball team. He managed to bring the stray first year club members back to the right path. The reborn Nikogaku had a rocky start, but through the utter defeat they tasted in their first practice game, they discovered and started yearning for a dream called the Koshien. In the fourth round of the summer prelims, Nikogaku was up against the champions, Sasazaki highschool. During the first inning, Sasazaki managed to take the lead thanks to the magnificent slugger Bessho's two runs, but Nikogaku also began to destroy the opponent's top high school ace pitcher Kawakami little by little. And then in the bottom of the third, Nikogaku managed to turn the tables around. However, after Bessho's second and third home run on that day, Nikogaku lost the lead once again. While Nikogaku suffered injuries in another unfortunate development, thanks to Aniya's plays in offense and defense, they hung on. In the top of the 8th, Sasazaki is in the lead 5 to 4. In the bottom of that inning, with two outs and runners on first and second, will Shinjo be able to hit, will the runner Akaboshi make it home from the first base...!?

Character Introduction



















ROOKIES ルーキーズ

—21—
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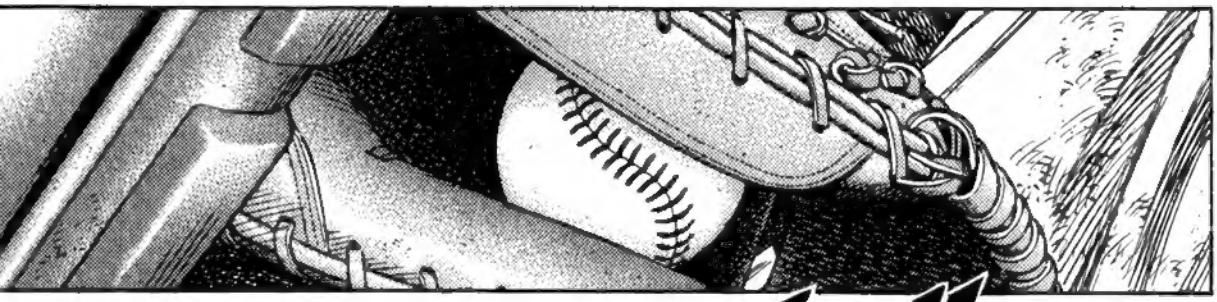
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普通の川藤（ふつう かわとう）

STUDIO Kitman SINCE 1989






バッ
Vol.196
NEVER NEVER NEVER
SURRENDER



Vol.196

NEVER NEVER NEVER SURRENDER



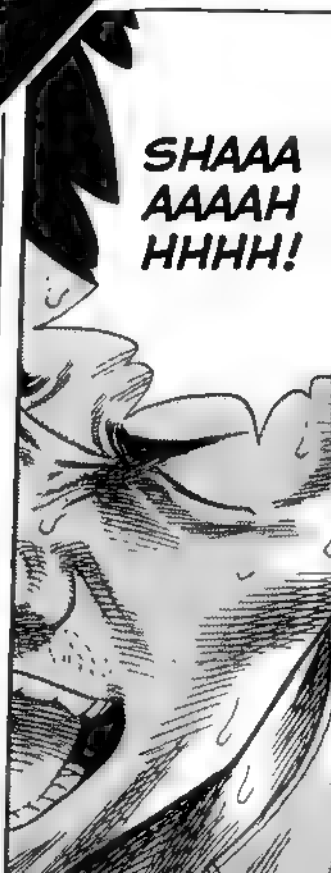

WHAAAA...
.....
A... AN OUT...!?
YOU'RE CRAZY, YOU KNOW THAT? ANIYA'S RETURN TOSS IS NOTHING TO YOU!
HEHEH! I DID IT!
AN OUT.
EHHH!? NO WAY!
NO, NO, NO, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THAT JUST NOW WAS...
AL-RIIIIGHT! FUJITA IS SO AWE-SOME!
DID YOU SEE THAT STRIKE RETURN TOSS JUST NOW!?
WOAA-AAAAHH! FUJITA-AAAAAA!


AWE-SOME!
YEAAA AAAH! WE GOT THROUGH THE STORM!
WHOAA AAA! FUJITA AAAA!
WHY DID I LET HIM GO AROUND...!?
WHY...
WHY DID I RUSH THINGS AND TRY TO GO SCORE A POINT...?
THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OUR LAST CHANCE...


BASES WERE LOADED, AND WE HAD HIRATSUKA..!
I KNEW HOW IMPORTANT A RUNNER HE WAS...
WHY...!?
BASES WERE LOADED AND WE HAD HIRATSUKA...!
NUOO OOHHH HHH!


10


THIS SEN-
SATION!
HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COOOO OOMES!
10
I'M READY ANY-
TIIIIME!
THE BEST FINIII IIISH!


SHAAA AAAAH HHHH!


I'M AN IDIOT...!!


.....
3
ガン
DAMM-IIIIT!
D...


OUT
STRIKE
TN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 R
SASAZAKI 2 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 5
FUTAKO-TAMAGAWA 0 1 2 0 0 1 0 0 4


THAT RIGHT FIELDER FUJITA'S RETURN PITCH WAS EVERY-THING.
YEP, THAT WAS AN OUT. THE THIRD BASE COACH GOT CONFUSED AND DE-LAYED HIS SIGNAL.
KUHH... THAT WAS AN OUT JUST NOW!?
THE RUNNER, AKABOSHI, DROPPED HIS SPEED A BIT AROUND THIRD BASE.


NOW THEY HAVE THIS POINT SPREAD LEFT TO DEAL WITH FOR THE LAST INNING...
THIS WAS NIKOGAKU'S LAST CHANCE, BUT THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT THEIRS...


1
4
IT'S FAR TOO HEAVY A BURDEN.


THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO GET DOWN ON YOUR-SELVES! THIS IS THE LAST INNING!
WHAT'S WRONG, EVERY-ONE!?
カチャ
カチャ
LET'S KEEP IT TOGETHER, GO OUT THERE, AND KISS 'EM GOODBYE!
C'MON, STAND UP!
DAMMIT! I KNOW THAT WAS A SAFE...
CHATTER CHATTER
AHHHH, IT'S ALREADY THE LAST INNING?
OWW, THAT HURTS! DON'T PULL ME!
C'MON, LET'S GO! STAND UP!
HOOO...


WHY DID YOU GUYS STOP ATTACK-ING!?
YOU WANT ME TO JUST LET ALL THE RUNNERS BUILD UP IN FRONT OF ME OR SOME-THING!?
Dugout
AHHHH HHHH!
YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE GOODBYE SCENE TO ME!? IS THAT HOW IT IS!?
OH!? WAIT A MINUTE, IS THAT IT!?
.....
.....
WHAT'S THAT?
DON'T THINK THINGS'LL END THAT EASILY...
WHO KNOWS HOW FAR AWAY THAT ONE POINT IS?
YOU'RE ONE COM-FORTABLE BASTARD.
TCH! YOU IDIOT.
HAHAHA! THAT'S RIGHT, I GUESS GETTING ALL EXCITED EIGHT TIMES IN A ROW WON'T HELP MUCH!

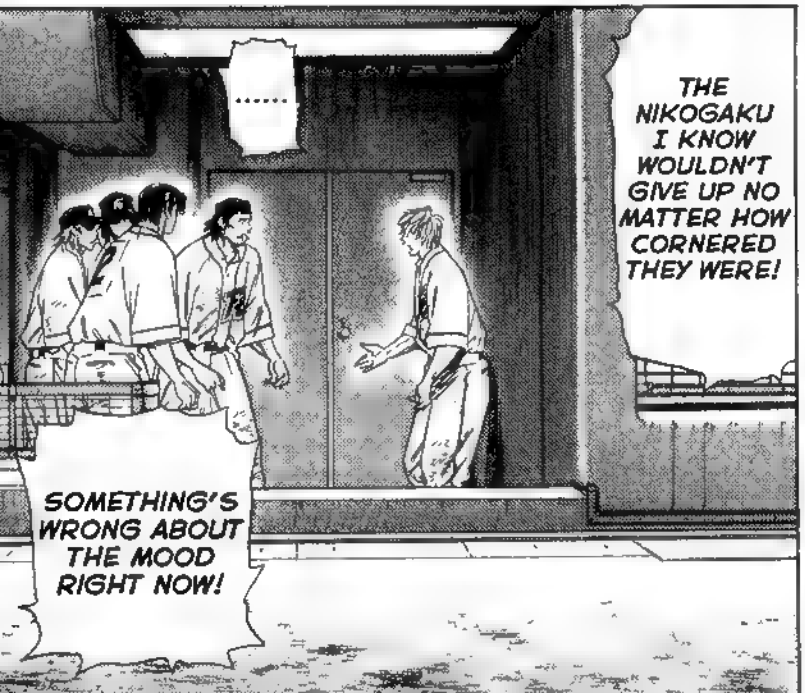



OR HOW ABOUT WE HAVE SASAZAKI SCORE TEN MORE POINTS IN THE NINTH INNING, JUST TO WIN EVEN MORE DRAMATICALLY!?
HAHAHA! THEN LET'S GET SERIOUS THIS TIME!!


NOOO OOO! THAT'S NOT IIIIIT!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHAT KIND OF A SITUATION WE'RE IN!? SPOUTING OFF SUCH HAPPY-GO-LUCKY BULLSHIT WHEN WE CAN'T EVEN CATCH UP TO A SINGLE POINT...


.....


YOU GUYS AREN'T ACTING LIKE NIKOGAKU AT ALL!


.....
THE NIKOGAKU I KNOW WOULDN'T GIVE UP NO MATTER HOW CORNERED THEY WERE!
SOMETHING'S WRONG ABOUT THE MOOD RIGHT NOW!


.....
.....
WE CAN'T GIVE UP!
ISN'T OBSTINANCE NO MATTER THE SITUATION THE MARK OF NIKOGAKU!?
HAMA-NAKA ...
.....
.....
KUH...
WHO SAID WE'RE GIVING UP...
YOU WANNA DIE, BITCH!?

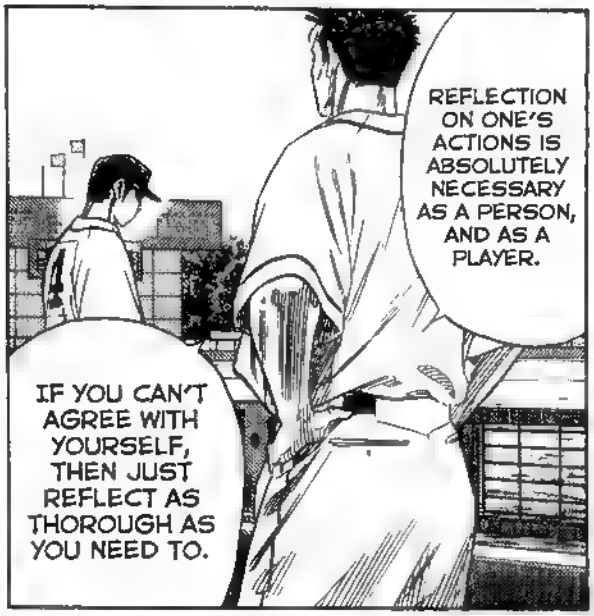

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE NIKOGAKU, YOU MOTHER FUCKERS!
OHHHHH!
DAMNIT, LET'S GOOOO!

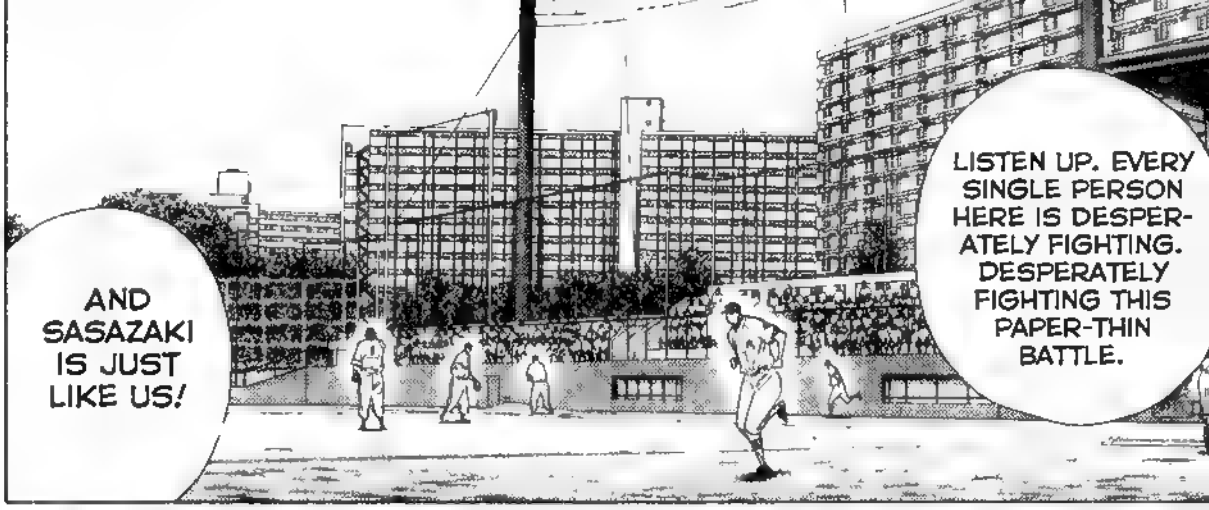

MIKOSHIBA.
!


.....


HAH... HAAAAH, THAT WAS SCARY...


REGRET WILL NEVER PUSH YOU AHEAD.
BUT REGRET IS DIFFERENT.


REFLECTION ON ONE'S ACTIONS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY AS A PERSON, AND AS A PLAYER.
IF YOU CAN'T AGREE WITH YOURSELF, THEN JUST REFLECT AS THOROUGH AS YOU NEED TO.


AND SASAZAKI IS JUST LIKE US!
LISTEN UP. EVERY SINGLE PERSON HERE IS DESPERATELY FIGHTING. DESPERATELY FIGHTING THIS PAPER-THIN BATTLE.


THOSE WHO DON'T GIVE UP WILL WIN.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO STAND STILL, MIKOSHIBA.


HEHEH...


SEN-SEI...


LET'S GET IT TOGETH-ER, GUYS!
TUCK YOUR GUTS IN AND STICK YOUR CHESTS OUT!
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU, ANI-YAAAA!
THAT'S RIGHT! DON'T GO GETTING CHICKEN HERE, YOU BASTARDS!
OHHH HHH!




NOW THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE THE NIKO-GAKU I KNOW.
FUFU... THAT HAMANAKA SURE KNOWS WHAT TO SAY.


HAMA-NAKA!
HAMA-NAKA!


AHHH, WATCH OUT, IT WENT TO THE LEFT!


IT...
IT'S AL-RIGHT!


HOW COULD I SCREW UP HERE...!? JUST WATCH THIS!
I'VE PULLED EVERYONE'S LEGS UP UNTIL NOW...


I'M GONNA CATCH IT!
FOR SURE!


I'M #12 OF NIKOGAKU! HAMANAKA TAIYOU!!
KUH...
AHHHHH, HE DID IT AGAIN!
UGUH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?


AL-
RIGHT!
ALRIGHT,
IT WENT
TO THIRD!
OUUU
UUT!
5

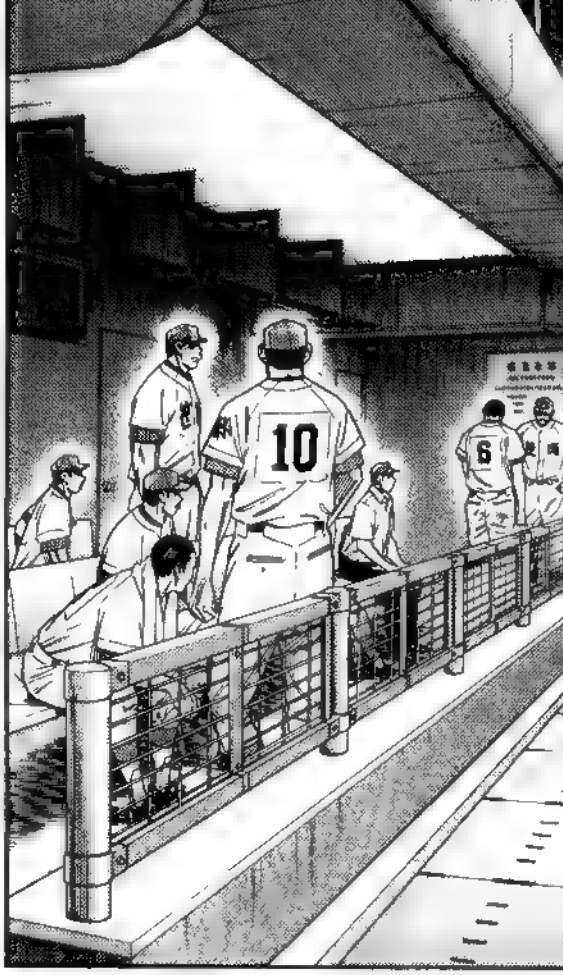

AHAH...
!
THAT'S RIGHT, DON'T STAND STILL.
JUST KEEP LOOKING AHEAD!
5
TO THE VERY END...!
WE WON'T GIVE UP...
WE CAN WIN!



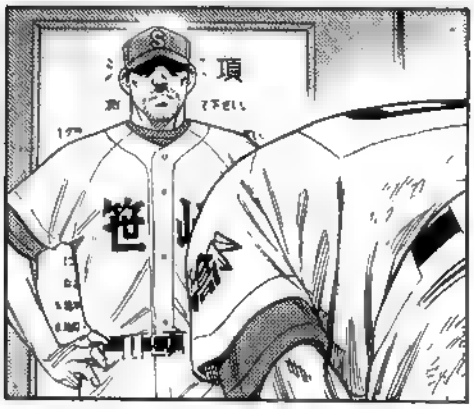

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. RUNNERS ON TWO BASES, WITH A FOUL FLY...
BATTING SEVENTH RIGHT FIELDER, FUJITA-KUN!
RIGHT FIELDER, FUJITA-KUN!
WHY DIDN'T THEY SEND SOMEONE NOW AND PUT A RUNNER ON ALL THREE BASES?
BECAUSE SASAZAKI'S GETTING HASTY NOW TOO.
THIS IS THE LAST INNING.
NO, IF IT GETS AROUND TO KAWAKAMI, HE'LL GET SOME HITS IN THIS TIME. AS MANY AS HE NEEDS TO.
THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SIGN OUT FOR AN ADVANCING BUNT.
IF THEY CAN'T GET HITS OUT OF KAWAKAMI, THEN IT'LL BECOME NECESSARY FOR THEM TO GET A POINT UNTIL THE EIGHTH BATTER COMES IN.
I WONDER.

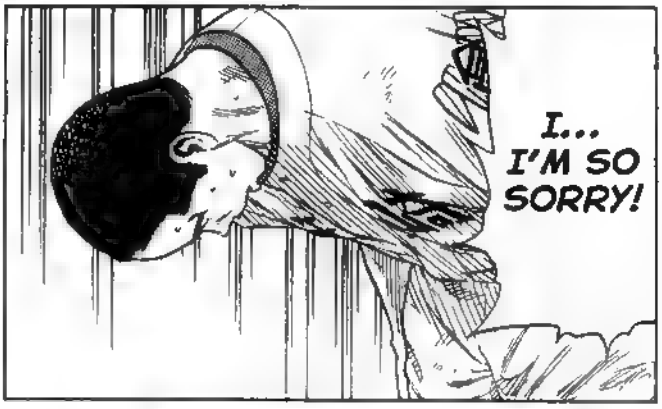
Vol. 197 Gibbim a Shird!


COULDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN?


10
6


I THOUGHT... THERE'D BE A HOLE IN THE LEFT... SO I JUST...
N... NO.




I... I'M SO SORRY!




I'M TAKING YOU OUT FROM THE REGULARS.
HIROWOKA...


.....
臣崎


I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.
GOT IT?


Y... YES SIR!
IN ORDER TO WIN, WE NEED TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT'S BEST!
YOUR SELF IS UN-NECESSARY! EVERYTHING SHOULD BE FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM!


I... IT WAS MY HANDS! HERE, LOOK!
HMM...!?
LOOK HOW RED THEY ARE...
DON'T GET SO DESPERATE! IT WAS YOUR GRIP!
カン
N... NO...
FOUL!
.....
オオ
DEAD BALL!
YES!
SERI-OUS-LY!?
ALRIGHT, FIRST AND SECOND!
ONE OUT ON FIRST AND SECOND!


IT'S ALRIGHT, ANIYA! DO YOUR BEST!
LET'S GO WITH THE GET TWO! THE GET TWO!
GETTING ANY MORE POINTS HERE IN THE NINTH...
KUHAAH! FIRST AND SECOND...
CALM DOWN, ANIYAAAA!
THERE WAS A SWITCH IN THE MIDDLE, BUT BECAUSE OF ALL THE FOULS, HE'S REALLY BEEN FORCED TO STICK IN THERE...
LOOKS LIKE ANIYA'S HAVING IT ROUGH TOO.
HE'S SYM-BOLIZING NIKOGAKU.
HE WON'T DO ANY ESCAPIST PITCHING THOUGH, THAT'S FOR SURE.
SASAZAKI HIGH IS NOW SWITCHING UP PLAYERS!
OHHH, HERE HE COMES!
CHATTER CHATTER
WANNA SWITCH OUT? THE ACE IS ABOUT TO COME IN.
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!


HERE HE COOO OMES!
WE'VE BEEN WAIT-IIIING!


BATTING EIGHTH, IN PLACE OF YONAMINE-KUN.
BATTER MORI-KUN.
BATTING EIGHTH, SECOND BASE, MORI-KUN.
UNIFORM #16...

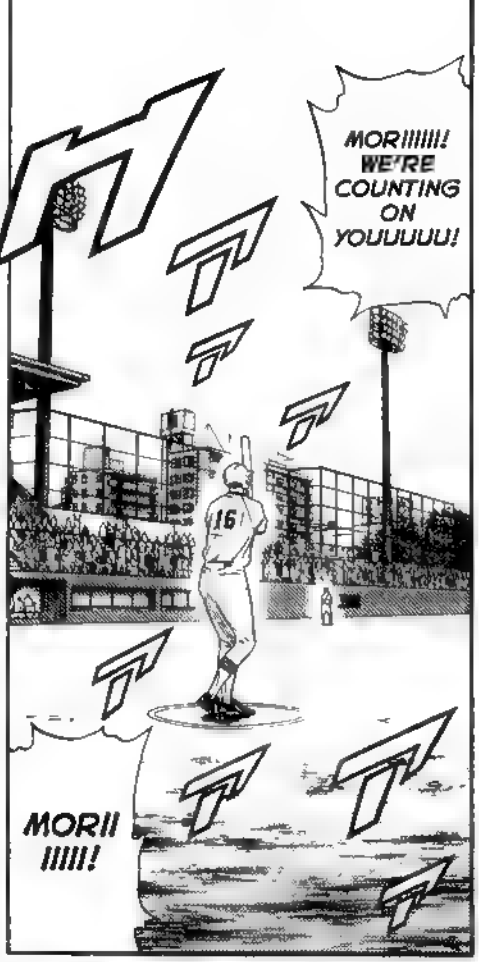

WH... WHO IS THAT?
LISTEN TO THOSE CHEERS!


WH... WHO IS IT?
TIME FOR THEIR TRUMP CARD, HUH...
LOOKS LIKE THIS'LL BE THE FINAL SHOWDOWN.

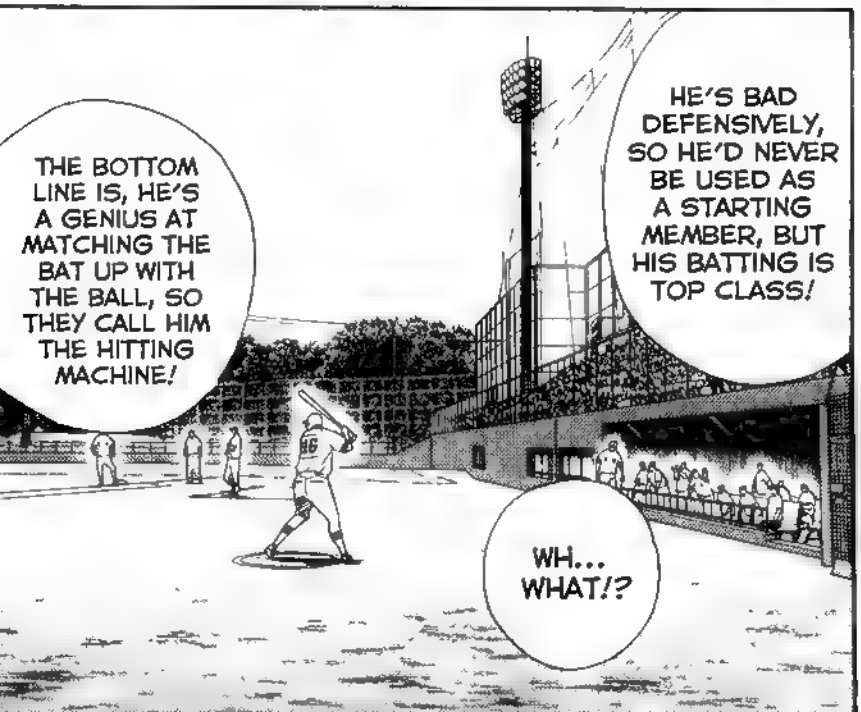



AHH, SO HE REALLY DID COME OUT!
JUST WHO IS THAT GUY!?
H-HEY, CAN I GO OUT TO THE MOUND REAL QUICK!?


.....
WHO IS THAT!? YOU KNOW HIM, ANIYA!?
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS EXCITEMENT FROM THE CROWD!?
UWAHH, MIKOSHIBA!
ANIYA! SASAZAKI'S ASKING FOR A SHOWDOWN!


MOR!!!!!! WE'RE COUNTING ON YOUUUUU!
MORII !!!!!

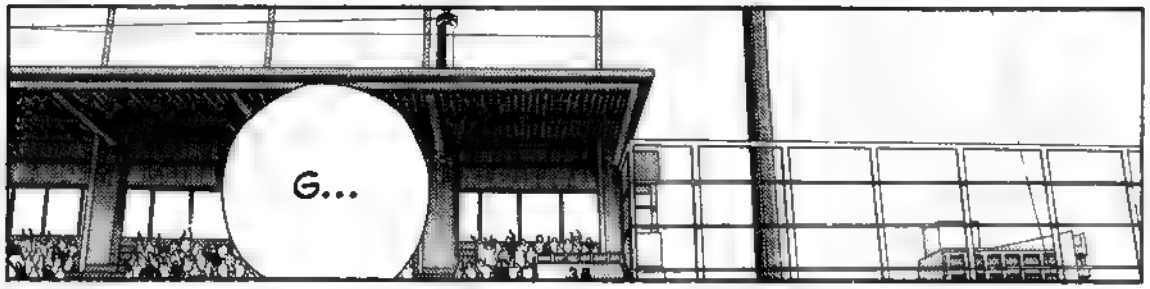

IN A GAME THIS CLOSE, I FIGURE HE'D COME OUT SOONER OR LATER, BUT NOW WE'RE REALLY IN TROUBLE!
HE'S SASAZAKI'S ULTIMATE WEAPON!


THE BOTTOM LINE IS, HE'S A GENIUS AT MATCHING THE BAT UP WITH THE BALL, SO THEY CALL HIM THE HITTING MACHINE!
HE'S BAD DEFENSIVELY, SO HE'D NEVER BE USED AS A STARTING MEMBER, BUT HIS BATTING IS TOP CLASS!
WH... WHAT!?


HUH?

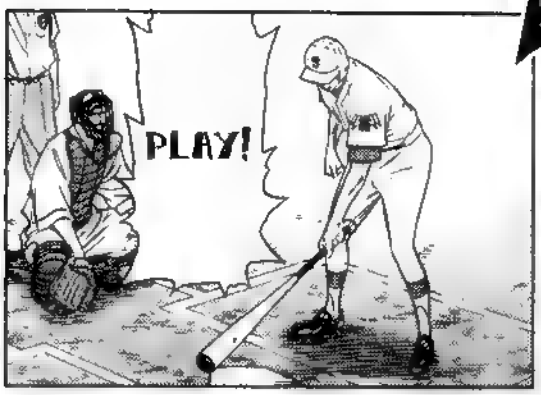

HE STUDIES THE PITCHER BY HITTING A BUNCH OF FOULS AND THEN TIRES THEM OUT.
AND THEN HE TOOK THREE BASES WITH A GENTLE PITCH.
HE HIT 35 FOULS.
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
HAS ONLY BEEN STRUCK OUT TWICE IN HIS WHOLE BATTING CAREER, WHEN HE WAS NINE AND FIRST STARTED PLAYING.
SINCE THEN, HE'S NEVER MISSED EVEN ONCE...
ALSO, THIS IS AN INFAMOUS STORY, BUT...
THAT MORI GUY...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO SAY!?
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO TELL US SOMETHING THAT STUPID?
UGAH!
ENOUGH OF YOUR MOUTH.


.....


G...


GIBBIM A SHIRD!
(GIVE HIM A THIRD!)


LEAVE IT TO ME.


PLAY!




MORI
IIII!
SEAL THE GAME FOR US, MORIIII!


C... C'MON, MORI!
CHATTER CHATTER
THEY'LL AT LEAST BE ABLE TO GET ONE MORE POINT NOW.
SURE IS A RELIEF TO SEE MORI OUT THERE!




笹崎




STRIKE!


HE HAS NO RECORD OF MISSED STRIKES...
NONE!


AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HIS BATTING AVERAGE IS...


WHAT IS THIS!?


0.813
.233




TO THINK THERE WAS ANOTHER GUY OUT THERE BESIDES ME...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN SUCH A CURVE.


16
FOUL!

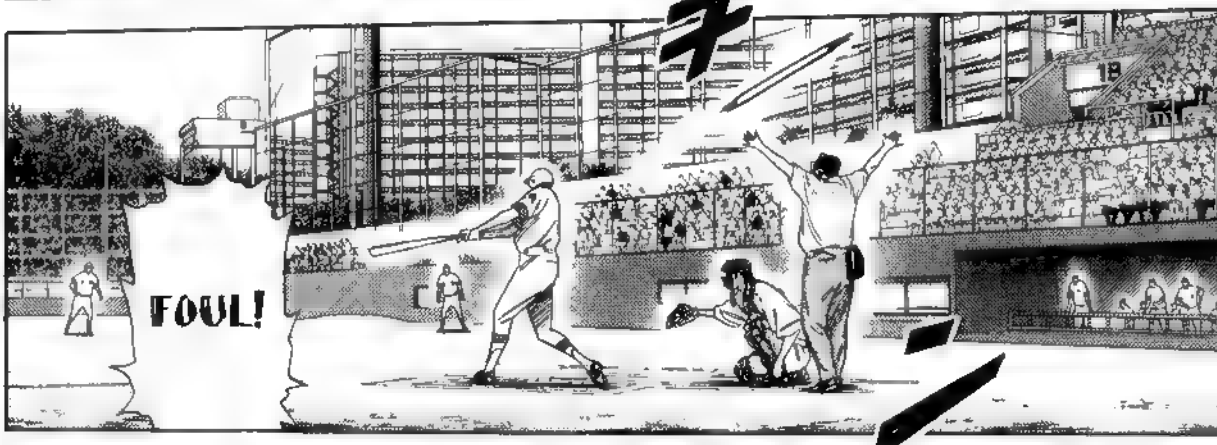

ANIYA...
KUHAAH, THAT WAS DAN-GER-OUS...



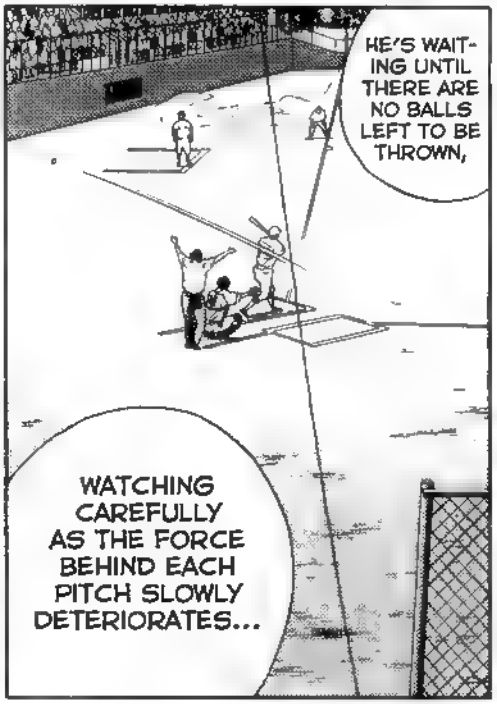





FOUL!


FOUL!


WAITING FOR THAT EVENTUAL SWEET PITCH.

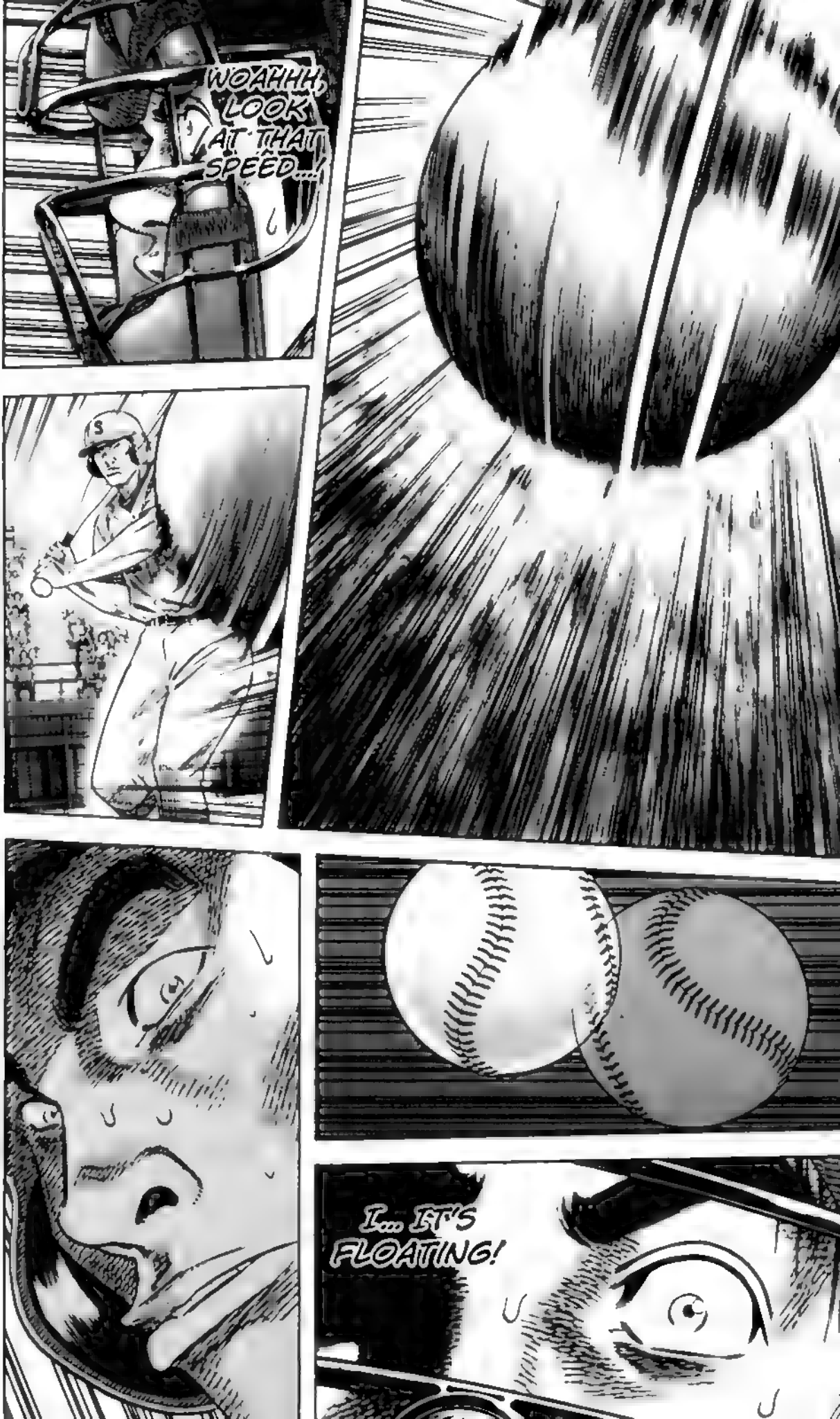

HE'S WAITING UNTIL THERE ARE NO BALLS LEFT TO BE THROWN,
WATCHING CAREFULLY AS THE FORCE BEHIND EACH PITCH SLOWLY DETERIORATES...


CUTTING CLOSE BALLS ONE AFTER ANOTHER, HUH...


HEY, HEY, YOUR PITCHES REALLY ARE GETTING GENTLER AND GENTLER.
YOU AT YOUR LIMIT ALREADY?
HEH!
LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVEN'T NOTICED.


I'M LETTING YOU HIT FOULS ON PURPOSE.
NO MISSED SWINGS!?
HEY, NO TALKING ON THE FIELD!
YOUR OPPONENTS WERE PROBABLY ALL SMALL FRIES.
HMPH!
LOOK AT ALL THAT SWEAT!
LIAR.
YOU'VE ONLY EVER GONE UP AGAINST
ガッ


1
A BUNCH OF LOSER
PITCH-ERS!
!


WOAHHH, LOOK AT THAT SPEED...!
I... IT'S FLOATING!


SUPER
STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!
YEAAA AAAAH!



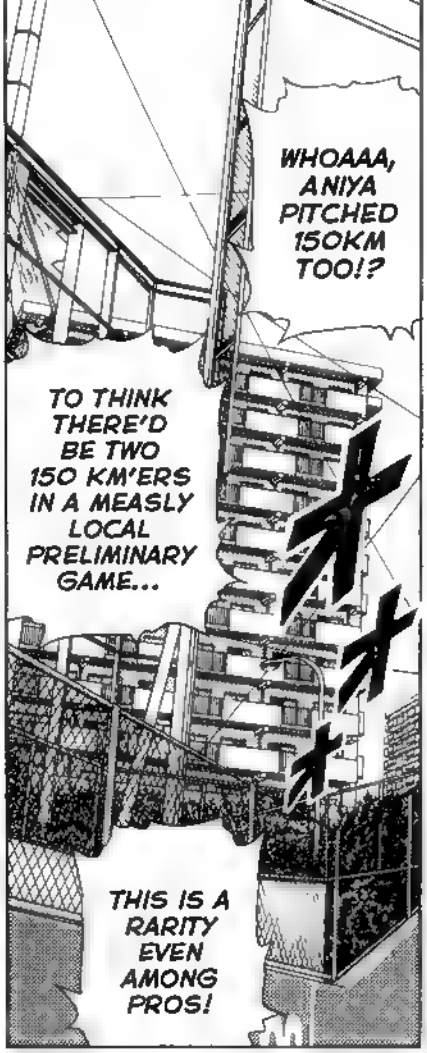


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Ideas and Realities


GOD DAMNIT!
OWWW... GOOD THING I WAS WEARING A MITT...
CHATTER CHATTER
IT... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN SUCH A THING...
MORI MISSED A HIT...
S... SERIOUSLY...!?
PEAK
150
HOW COULD HE THROW A PITCH LIKE THAT IN THE NINTH...
IT HOPPED RIGHT OUT OF HIS HANDS!
H... HEY!
EH ...!?


I JUST CAME HERE TO WATCH KAWAKAMI, BUT ENDED UP SEEING A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MARVEL ALTOGETHER!
HE'S A GOOD BATTER TOO!
NIKOGAKU'S ANIYA! ANIYA KEIICHI!


WHOAAA, ANIYA PITCHED 150KM TOO!?
TO THINK THERE'D BE TWO 150 KM'ERS IN A MEASLY LOCAL PRELIMINARY GAME...
オオオ
THIS IS A RARITY EVEN AMONG PROS!


HAHA...


HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALL TUCKERED OUT! AMAZING...
WHAT A GUY...




YEAAAAAAH, ANIYAAAAAAA!!

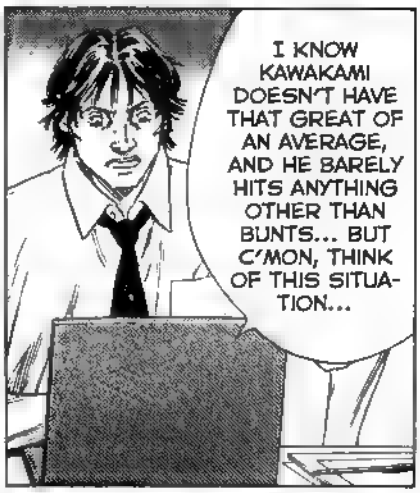

THAT BAS-TARD...
ANIYA ...
WOW...
THAT GUY IS REALLY SOME-THING...
オオ
BATTING NINTH, PITCHER, KAWAKAMI-KUN!
PITCHER, KAWAKAMI-KUN!
S
B
O
H
ウワ
HIT IT! HIT IT THIS TIME!
KAWA-KAMI!!!!!!
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!
!
KAWAKAMI.


YOU STILL SAYING THAT?
NAH, HE WON'T DO IT.


YEAH, NOTHING HAS CHANGED ABOUT SASAZAKI'S CHANCE.
TWO OUTS, WITH FIRST AND SECOND LOADED.
KAWAKAMI'S GOTTA GET A HIT IN THIS TIME.


I DOUBT CHIBA HAS ANY OTHER PLANS LEFT OVER.
SASAZAKI'S CHANCE FOR ATTACK ENDED WHEN THEIR TRUMP CARD MORI WAS DEFEATED.


THE OPPONENT IS A LOW-RANKED BATTER, BUT KAWAKAMI WILL TRY TO AT LEAST SCORE ONE MORE POINT NO MATTER WHAT. WHICH MEANS THERE IS NO REASON TO RISK ANY MORE DANGER AT THIS POINT.
CHIBA SHOULD BE THINKING LIKE SO:


I KNOW KAWAKAMI DOESN'T HAVE THAT GREAT OF AN AVERAGE, AND HE BARELY HITS ANYTHING OTHER THAN BUNTS... BUT C'MON, THINK OF THIS SITUATION...


THE DANGER OF A PITCHER GRIPPING THE FATE OF THE TEAM STANDING IN THE BATTER BOX.
CHIBA KNOWS THROUGH HIS OWN EXPERIENCE.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DANGER...?


.....
THAT IS OUR MISSION, AND EVERYTHING.
WE MUST GO TO KOUSHIEN.


S
PLAY!
!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GOOOO!
KAWAKA-MI!!!!!
KAWA-KAMI!!!!!
ANYTHING'S FINE, JUST HIT SOME-THING!

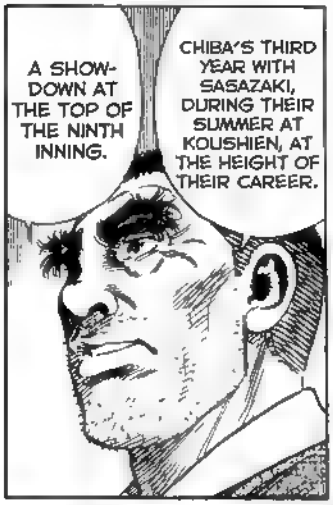



WHA...
CHATTER

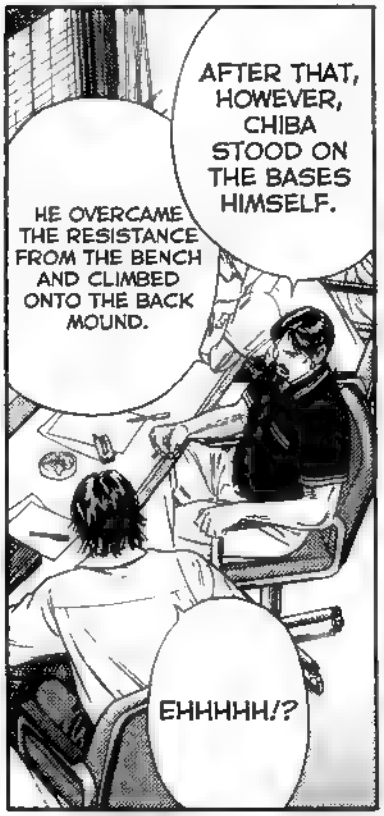

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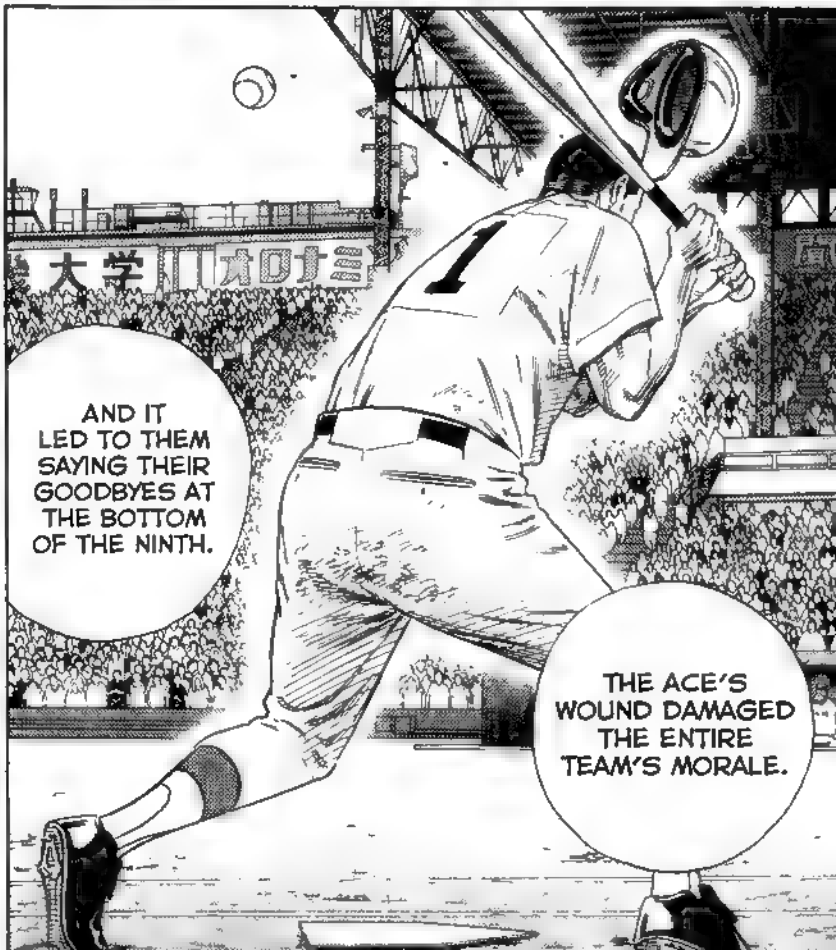

A CONCUSSION FROM A DEAD BALL!?


S
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A SHOWDOWN AT THE TOP OF THE NINTH INNING.
CHIBA'S THIRD YEAR WITH SASAZAKI, DURING THEIR SUMMER AT KOUSHIEN, AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR CAREER.

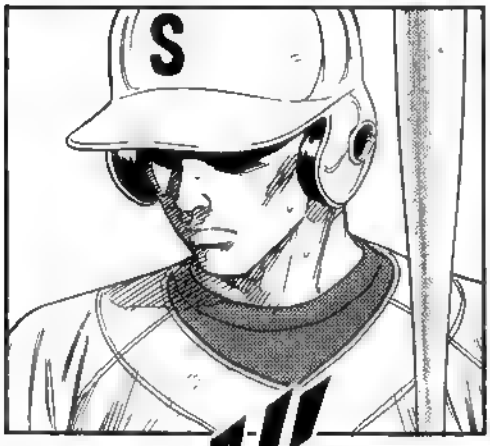

IT WAS IN HIS THIRD YEAR...
OH YEAH, NOW I REMEMBER.


AFTER THAT, HOWEVER, CHIBA STOOD ON THE BASES HIMSELF.
HE OVERCAME THE RESISTANCE FROM THE BENCH AND CLIMBED ONTO THE BACK MOUND.
EHHHHH!?


AND IT LED TO THEM SAYING THEIR GOODBYES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH.
THE ACE'S WOUND DAMAGED THE ENTIRE TEAM'S MORALE.


IT'S PROBABLY EVEN CORRECT TO SAY THAT CHIBA'S TRUE IDEA OF BASE-BALL WAS BORN FROM THAT MOMENT.
WINNING IS EVERYTHING.
IF YOU'RE WINNING BY EVEN ONE POINT, DON'T LET THE ACE HIT. IN ORDER TO PROTECT THAT SINGLE POINT, DON'T TAKE ANY EXTREME RISKS.
AND THEN HE PROBABLY FIGURED THAT BASE-BALL WASN'T ALL ABOUT SPIRIT AND GUTS.
HE WAS BEATEN, THOUGH.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THOUGH, THAT TURNED KAWAKAMI'S SENSE OF TRUST INSIDE OUT.
AND SO HE TOLD KAWAKAMI NOT TO HIT...
.....
BUT...
BUT...?
笹
崎
CHIBA BELIEVED THAT KAWAKAMI WOULD PROTECT THINGS NO MATTER WHAT IN THIS BOTTOM HALF.


SO LAME.


S


DON'T RUN AWAY, KAWA-KAMI!!!!!
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING!?
KAWA-KAMI!!!!!
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE, ISN'T THERE!? GO AND GET ANOTHER POINT! C'MON!



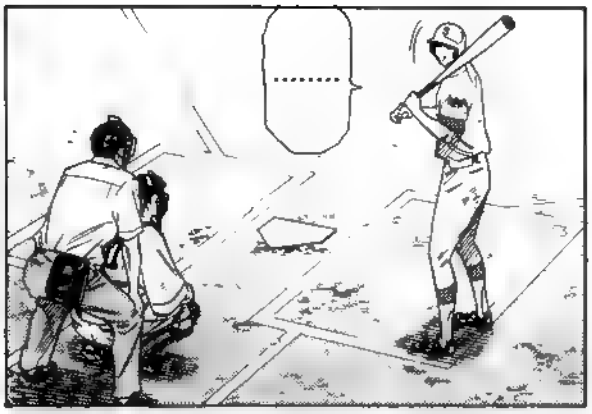

STRIKE!

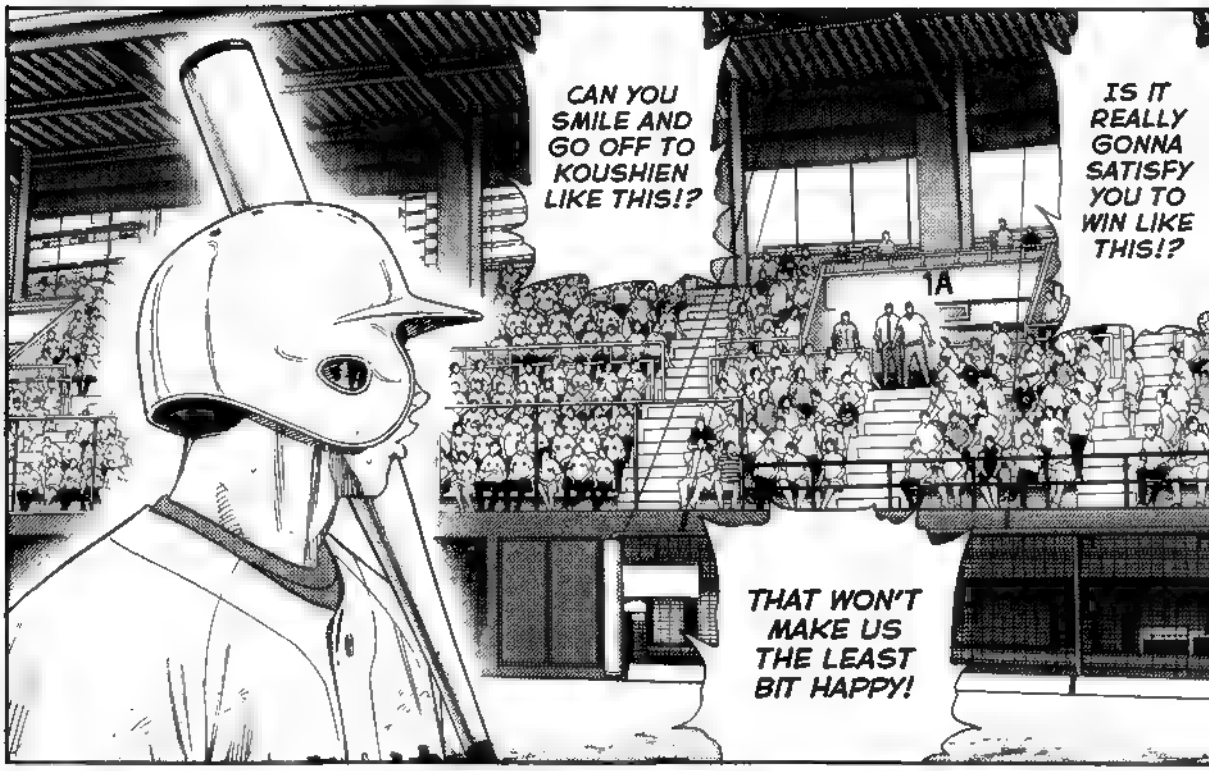

DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE GOING UP AGAINST HIM!?
DIDN'T ANIYA'S PLAY JUST NOW MAKE YOU FEEL ANY-THING...?
AREN'T YOU IN PAIN, KAWA-KAMI...?
WHY...?
DID WE GET SACRIFICED JUST SO YOU COULD PLAY THIS WAY?
HEY, NAGA-SHIMA...
THIS WASN'T IT AT ALL...
AT THE LEAST, THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO SAY TO HIM.
IS THIS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IN ORDER TO MAKE IT TO KOUSHIEN...?


STRIKE!
KAWA-
KAMI...
KAWA-
KAMI...
!


.....
LEARN FROM NIKO-GAKU!
KAWA-KAMI!!!! C'MON!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
!
WILL THIS REALLY SATISFY YOU!?
KAWA-KAMI!!!! DON'T RUN AWAY!


I... IT'S SAITOU-SAN'S VOICE...


.....


CAN YOU SMILE AND GO OFF TO KOUSHIEN LIKE THIS!?
IS IT REALLY GONNA SATISFY YOU TO WIN LIKE THIS!?
1A
THAT WON'T MAKE US THE LEAST BIT HAPPY!


THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SASAZAKI PLAYER!
SHOW THE CROWD SOME REAL SASAZAKI STYLE BASE-BALL IN OUR PLACES!
WE WANNA SEE YOU CHARGE ON AHEAD WITH AN ATTACK LIKE SA-SAZAKI SHOULD!


SAITOU-SAN...
CHATTER CHATTER
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, ISN'T IT? SO TAKE A SWING!






.....
HEY, NO LOOKIN' AROUND.




IDEAS AND REALITIES AREN'T ALWAYS THE SAME THING.


YOSHI-SAN...
IT'S JUST...


CHIBA'S PROBABLY THE ONE WHO WANTS TO SHOUT OUT "HIT IT!" THE MOST.
DEEP DOWN, HE'S A COM-PETITOR.




S
FLEX


STRIIIIKE!
BATTER OUT!



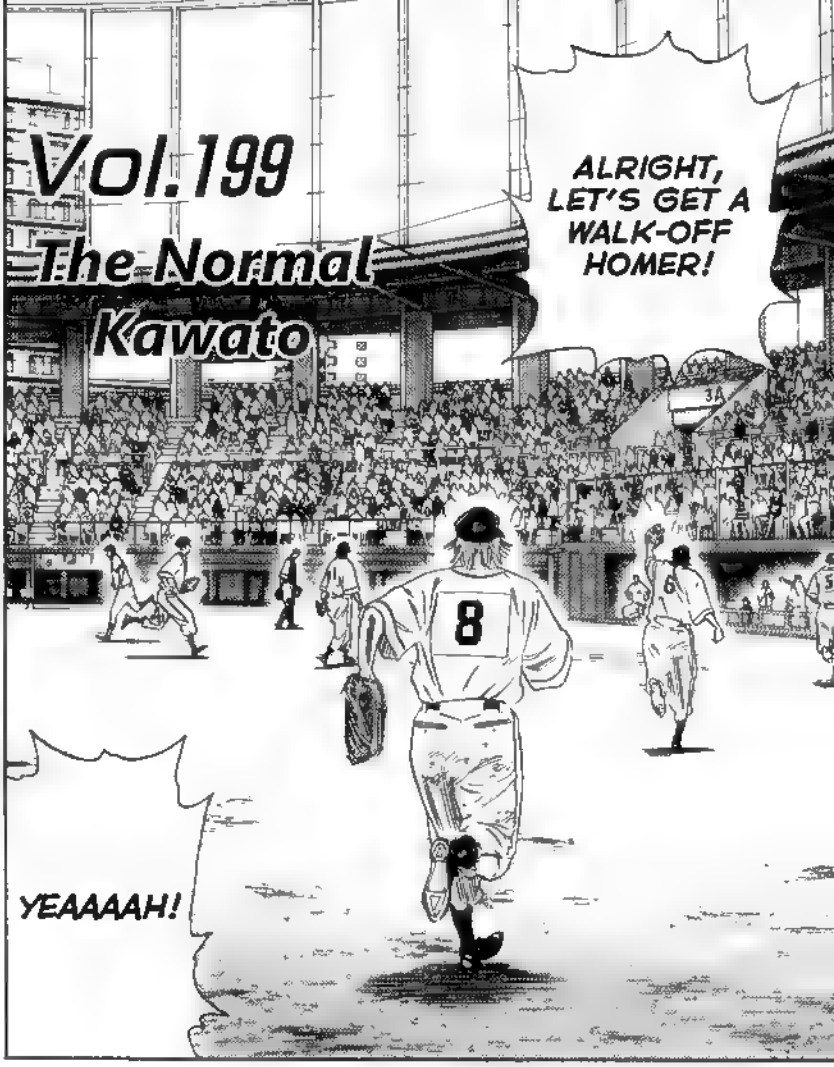

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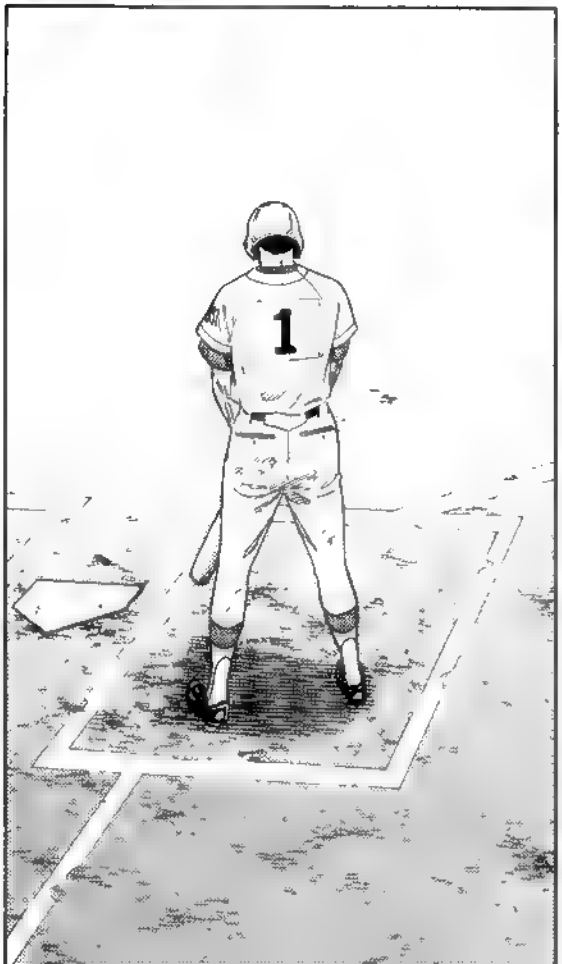




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The Normal Kawato

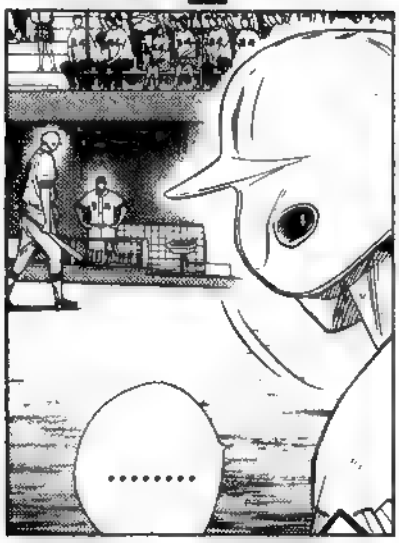










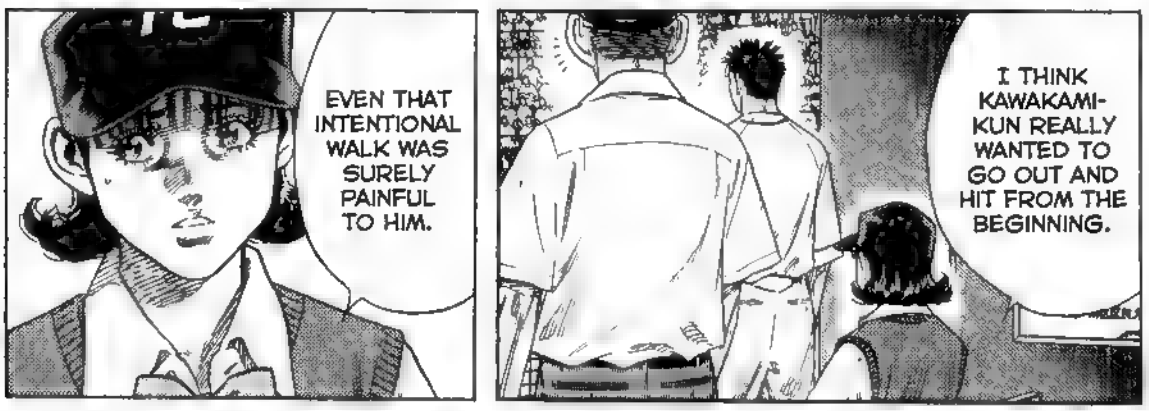

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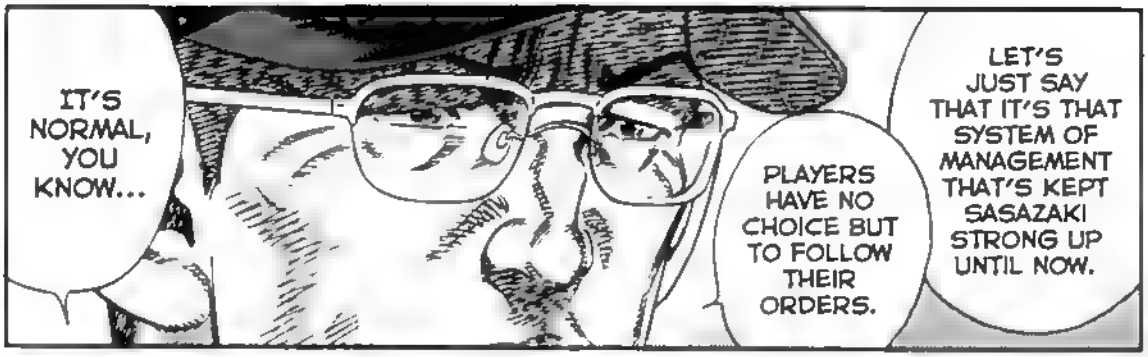

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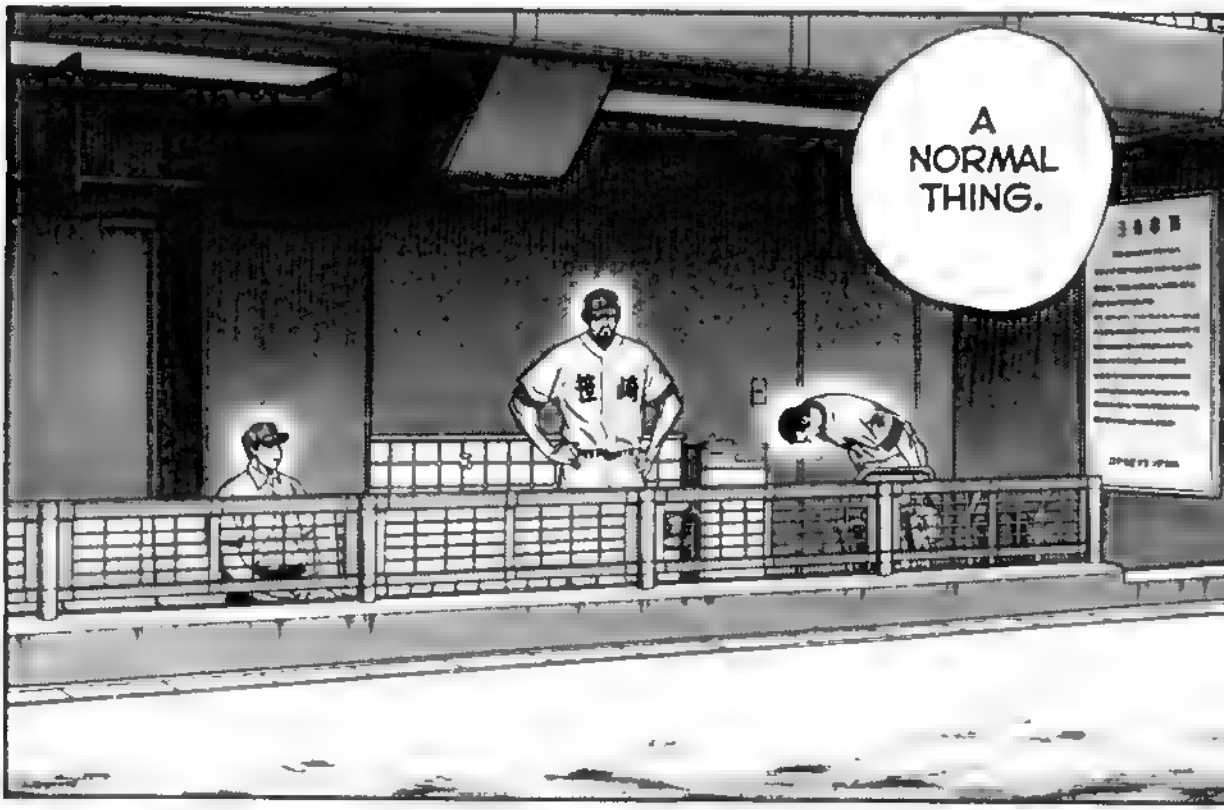

ALRIGHT, ANIYA! NICE PITCH!
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE! THERE'S ONLY A ONE POINT DIFFERENCE LEFT!
WE'LL MAKE IT A WALK-OFF HOMER NO MATTER WHAT!
YEAH!
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
NO...


I THINK KAWAKAMI-KUN REALLY WANTED TO GO OUT AND HIT FROM THE BEGINNING.
EVEN THAT INTENTIONAL WALK WAS SURELY PAINFUL TO HIM.


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THE CROWD KEPT BOOING HIM LIKE THAT, SO HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SWING!
YEAH, HE CAN'T SWING TO BEGIN WITH, ANYWAY, SO HE WAS PROBABLY JUST TOLD THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO.
IT'S TRUE THAT HE DOESN'T REALLY HIT MUCH, BUT...


THAT KIND OF BASEBALL SEEMS A BIT LONELY TO ME.
NOTHING WILL BEGIN UNLESS THE BAT WAS SWUNG— AND YET HE WASN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO DO THAT MUCH...
1


IT'S NORMAL, YOU KNOW...
PLAYERS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW THEIR ORDERS.
LET'S JUST SAY THAT IT'S THAT SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT THAT'S KEPT SASAZAKI STRONG UP UNTIL NOW.


A NORMAL THING.



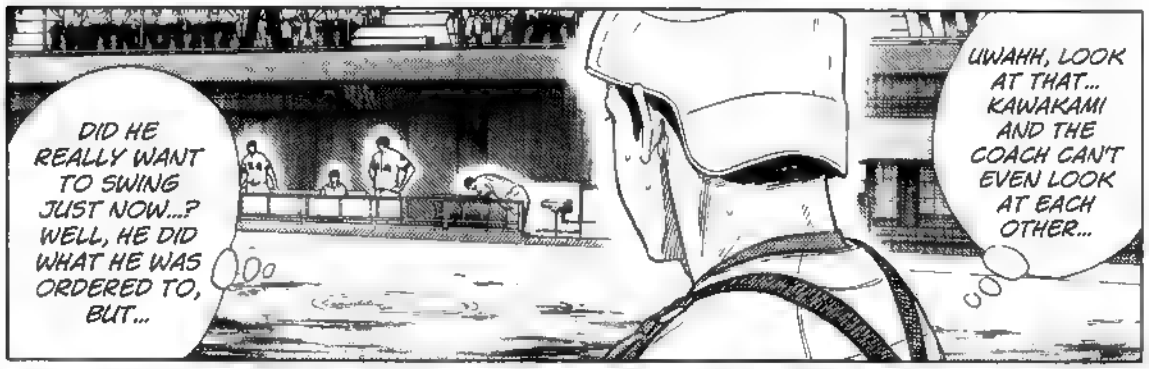





KAWA-
KAMI?
WHAT'S HE
DOING?
CHATTER
CHATTER


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

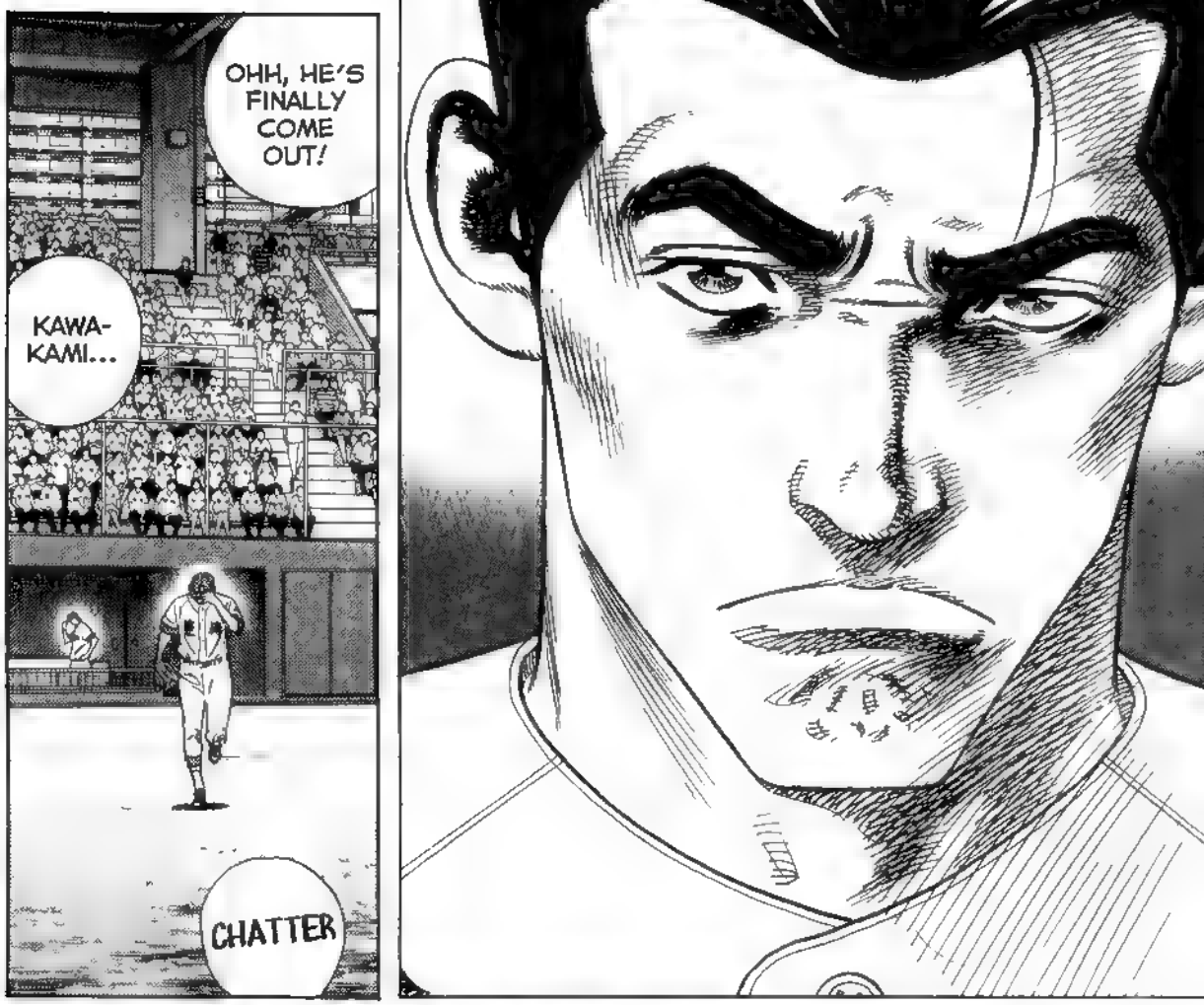

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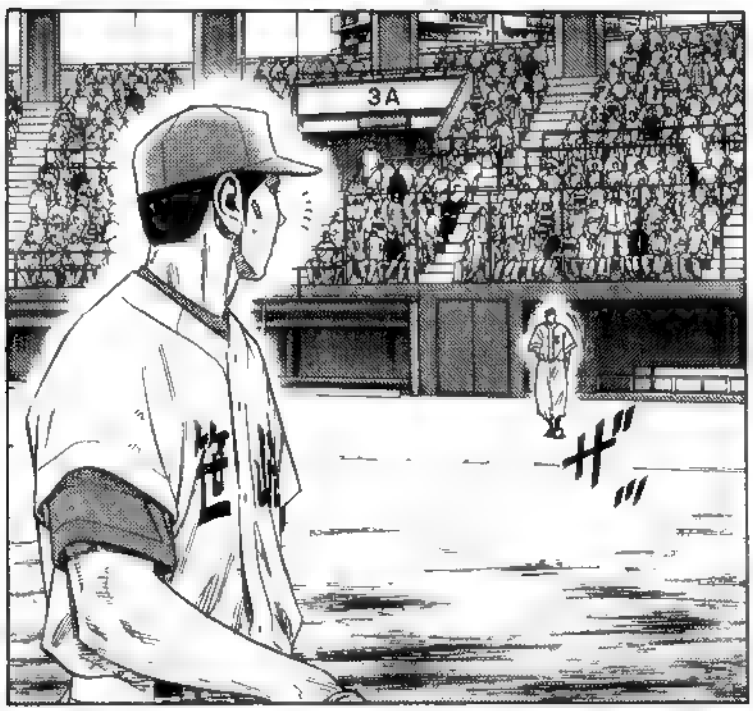

DID HE REALLY WANT TO SWING JUST NOW...? WELL, HE DID WHAT HE WAS ORDERED TO, BUT...
UWAHH, LOOK AT THAT... KAWAKAMI AND THE COACH CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER...




KAWA-
KAMI.


.....


OHH, HE'S FINALLY COME OUT!
KAWA-KAMI...
CHATTER


3A


HUH? SENSEI?


H... HUH? HOLD ON, KAWATO-SAN!
HEY, YOU CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THAT!
HM?
UWAH... THAT IDIOT...
H... HEY!
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
.....
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S
!?
"STAY TRUE TO THE DREAMS OF THY YOUTH."
BY FRIEDERICH VON SCHILLER!


GOOD SWING!




?


UWAHH, WHAT IS THAT MORON THINK-ING...
OH... OH NO, THIS TIME...HE CAN'T BE...
SOME-ONE STOP HIIIIM!!
HOW CAN HE DO THINGS LIKE THAT!?
UWAAA AAH, HE WENT IN-SIIIDE!
.....
H... HEY, YOU!


I DON'T CLAIM TO COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND BASEBALL.
IT'S BEEN A LITTLE LESS THAN A YEAR SINCE I STARTED SERIOUSLY PLAYING TEAM SPORTS.
HEY, STOP IT! DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING...
AND A COACH'S ORDER IS MOST LIKELY AN ABSOLUTE THING.
GOOD PLAYS HAPPEN ON TOP OF VARIOUS SACRIFICES, AND THAT'S HOW VICTORIES ARE UNDERSTOOD.
AND "WINNING IS EVERYTHING" MAY ALSO BE A VALID VIEWPOINT.
WH... WHAT!?
NIKOGAKU'S COACH IS GOING OVER TO START A FIGHT!
CHATTER
THAT'S WHAT "ONE FOR ALL" MEANS.
.....


ISN'T THAT SOMETHING THE COACH SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT ALONG WITH THE SOULS OF HIS PLAYERS!?
HOWEVER!
.....
.....
.....
笹崎
COACH CHIBA!
WHY ARE YOU IGNORING KAWAKAMI-KUN AFTER HE DIS-OBEYED YOUR ORDER!?


S... SEN-SEI...
PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME!
.....
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS KAWAKAMI-KUN SWUNG THAT BAT WITH!?

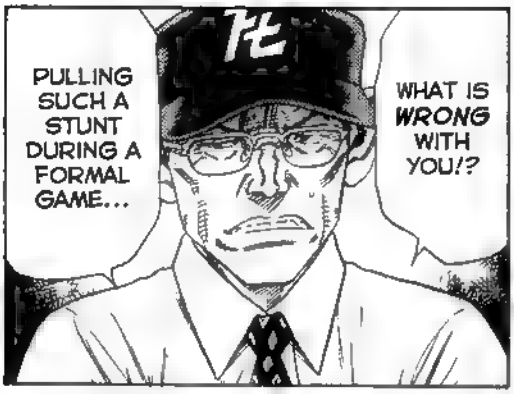

PLAYERS ALWAYS WANT TO PLAY TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES!
YOUR HEART MOST LIKELY BURNED AS WELL, AND YOU RISKED EVERYTHING YOU HAD WHEN YOU WERE A PLAYER!
FOR THESE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME MOMENTS!
WHY CAN'T YOU REMEMBER THAT NOW!?


DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MAN FROM THE STANDS WAS SHOUTING ABOUT SASAZAKI BASEBALL!?
CHATTER
S... SENSEI, THAT'S ENOUGH! THIS IS GOING TO TURN INTO A FORFEITED GAME!
CHATTER
NO, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR PLAYER'S FEELINGS...?
OUR COACH UNDERSTANDS...
.....
笹崎
HE UNDERSTANDS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT MUCH!
!?

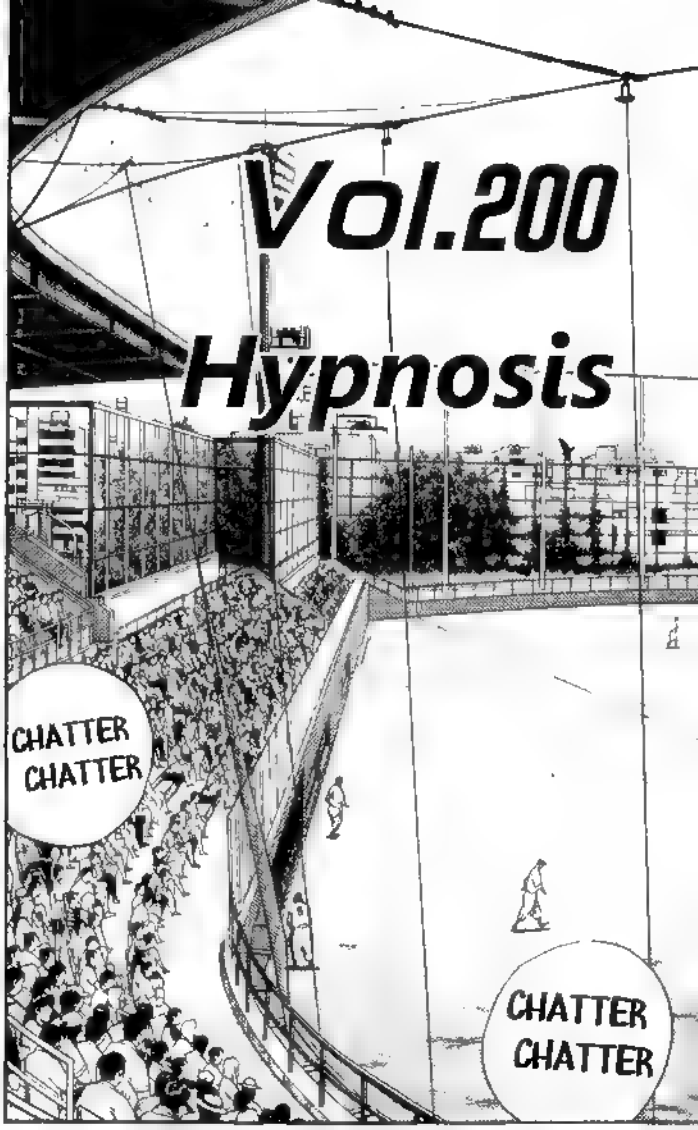

.....
THE TRUTH IS... THE COACH, HE...
.....
KU FOOOH... SHEESH...
KUKU...

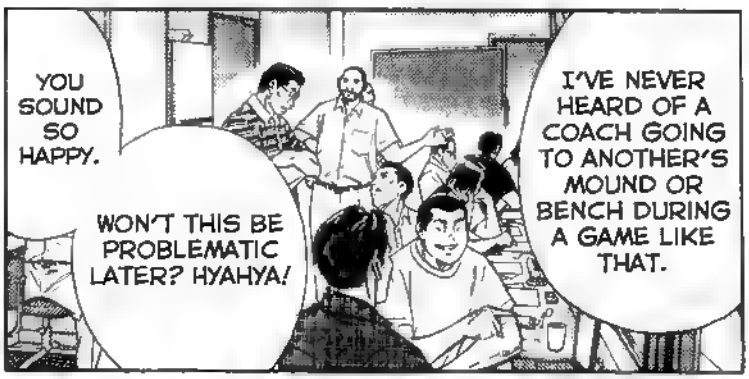

KEEP FIGHTING TO THE VERY LAST SECOND!
LISTEN UP! NIKOGAKU IS GOING ON THE ATTACK!
THAT'S ALL!
GOOOOO! NIKO-GAKU, GOOOO!!
AL-RIGHT, HERE WE GO!!

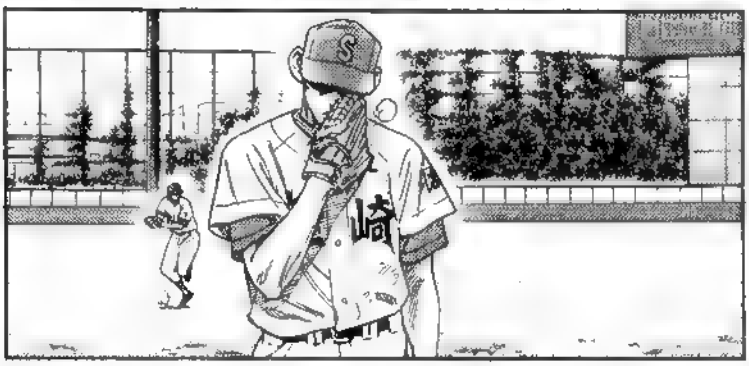
Vol.200 Hypnosis

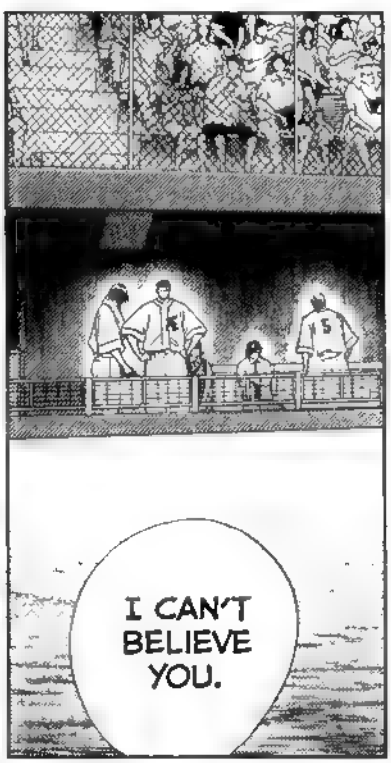







YOU SOUND SO HAPPY.
WON'T THIS BE PROBLEMATIC LATER? HYAHYA!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A COACH GOING TO ANOTHER'S MOUND OR BENCH DURING A GAME LIKE THAT.






CHIBA PROBABLY REALLY WANTED TO PRAISE KAWAKAMI FOR THAT.
IT'D BE RIDICU-LOUS TO EXPECT HIM NOT TO SWING IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT, THOUGH.

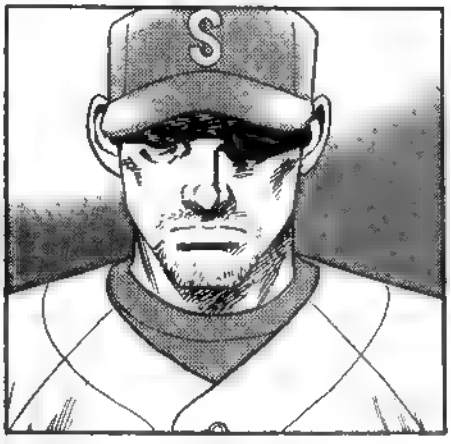

I WONDER IF THE COACH GOT MAD AT HIM.
BUT KAWAKAMI SWUNG, SO HE PROBABLY IGNORED HIS SIGN.
FUH!


AN EXTREME ATTACK FORMATION
WAS SASAZAKI'S ORIGINAL FORM, AFTER ALL.

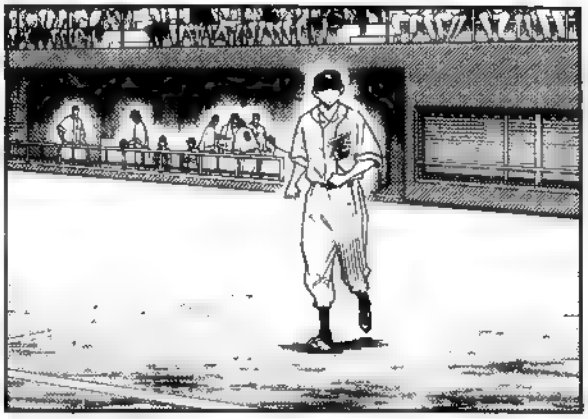

PRAISE HIM?

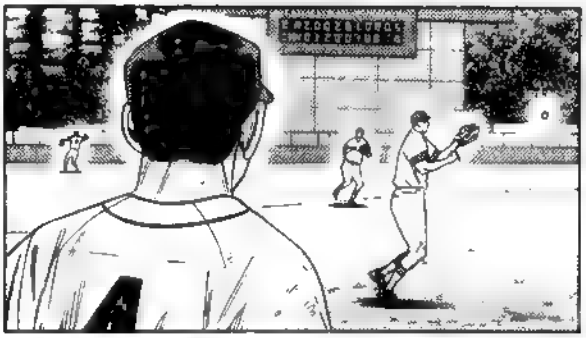

FOR HIS TRUE REALITY.
SASA-ZAKI'S TRUE REALITY.



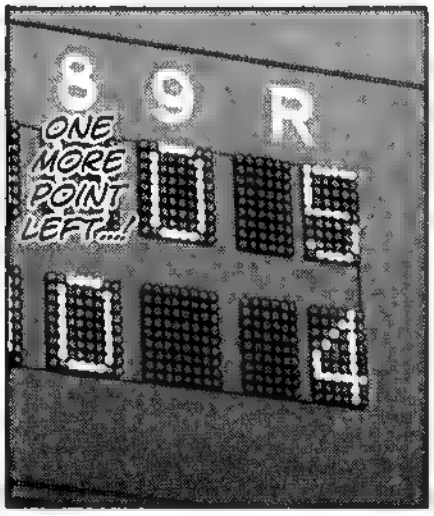

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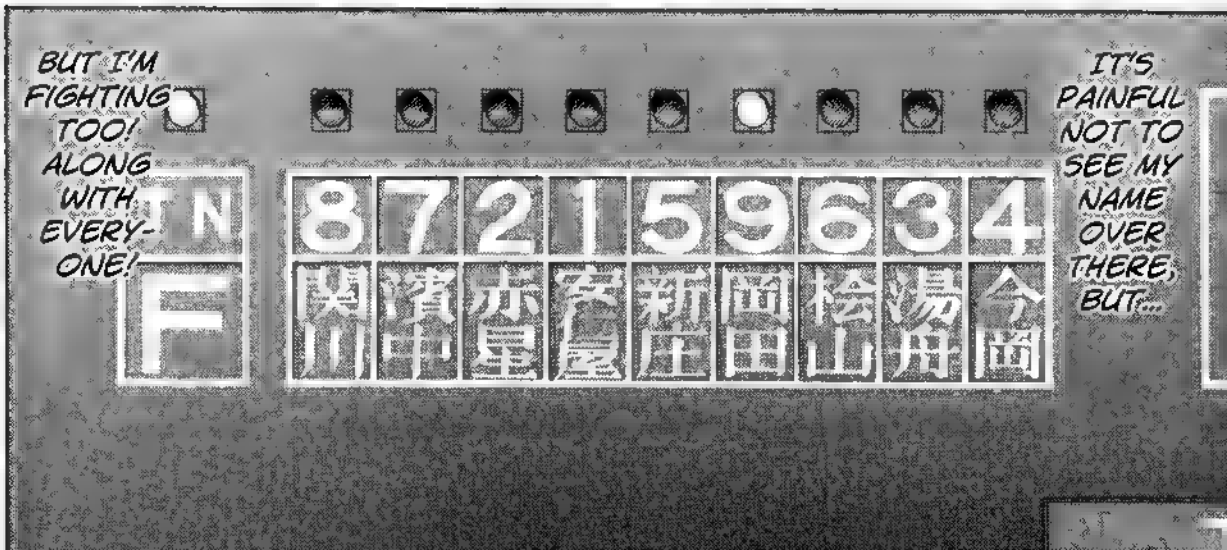

BOTTOM OF THE NINTH...
BOTTOM OF THE NINTH...






AND WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT THIS FAR...!
WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING WITH THE KINGS, SASAZAKI, UP UNTIL NOW...


8 9 R
ONE MORE POINT LEFT...!


BUT I'M FIGHTING TOO! ALONG WITH EVERY-ONE!
T N
F
8 7 2 1 5 9 6 3 4
関清赤富荘新岡桧湯今
山中星屋庄田山舟岡
IT'S PAINFUL NOT TO SEE MY NAME OVER THERE, BUT...


RIGHT FIELDER, OKADA-KUN!
OKADA! CALM DOWN!
WATCH THE BALL CLOSELY!
.....
BOTTOM OF THE NINTH! FUTAKOTAMAGAWA ACADEMY'S ATTACK FORMATION BEGINS WITH
6TH BATTER, RIGHT FIELDER, OKADA-KUN!
OKADA...
HOOO...
I HAVE NO PROOF, BUT... I HAVE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
OKADA, HIYAMA, YUELINE... ONE IS ENOUGH... JUST BRING ONE OF THEM OUT...!
IF ONLY WE COULD CONNECT IT TO HIRATSUKA!


KAWATO WILL PROBABLY USE ME IMMEDIATELY REGARDLESS OF WHO THE BATTER IS.
IF ONLY ONE OF THEM CAN GET ON A BASE,
THEN I'LL HAVE TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF A DEADLOCK HOME RUN ALONG WITH YUFUNE...
BUT IF WE GET TWO OUTS WITHOUT ANYONE LANDING ON A BASE...
I...
IF IT COMES TO THAT, MY MEANING AS A BATTER WILL BE HALVED...
BUT... THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH...
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOTTA SHINE AS THE GOODBYE BATTER!!


JUST WATCH ME...
DAMMIT... I'LL SHOW YOU...


PLAY!
1


OKA-DA...


I'M GONNA HIT A DEADLOCK HOMER...






OKADA AAAAA!


STRIIIKE!
.....!


KUH...


SO... FAST...
OHHH...
TH... THERE IT IS...


NIIIIICE, KAWA-KAMIIIII!
BLOW 'EM OUT OF THERE!
NOW JUST THREE MORE!


KAWA-KAMI...
KAWA-KAMI!
THAT'S OUR BOY...


YU... YUFUNE, C'MON OVER HERE FOR A SECOND.
HUH? WHAT?
KUH...
AHHH...
OKADAAAA! YOUR SWING WAS TOO SLOW!
KAWA-KAMIIII!
KAWA-KAMIIII!
KAWA-KAMIIII!


バシィッ!!
STRIIIKE!


"STAY TRUE TO THE DREAMS OF THY YOUTH."


FUH...
WEIRDO...

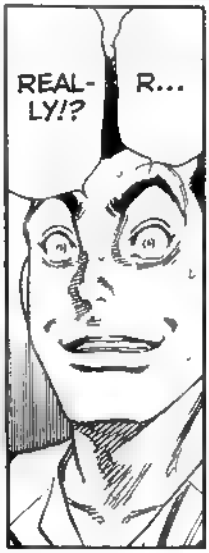

JUST WATCH IT.
HUH!? WHAT'S GOING ON!?

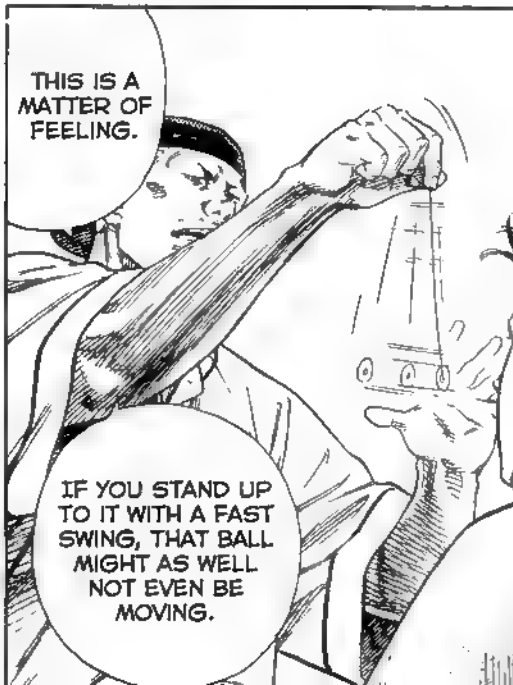



AND YOU'RE GONNA BECOME THE FASTEST BATTER ON THIS PLANET!
I'M GONNA HYPNOTISE YOU NOW.


YEAH, OBVI-OUSLY.
NOW WAAATCH CLOSELYYYY!
YOUR SWINGS ARE GONNA GET FASTERRRR, WAY FAST-ERRRR!
THAT'S RIGHT! FASTERRR, FASTERRRR!


JUST SIT DOWN! NONE OF THOSE GUYS OUT THERE ARE GONNA BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THAT BALL ANYWAY.
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
3


REAL-LY!?
R...

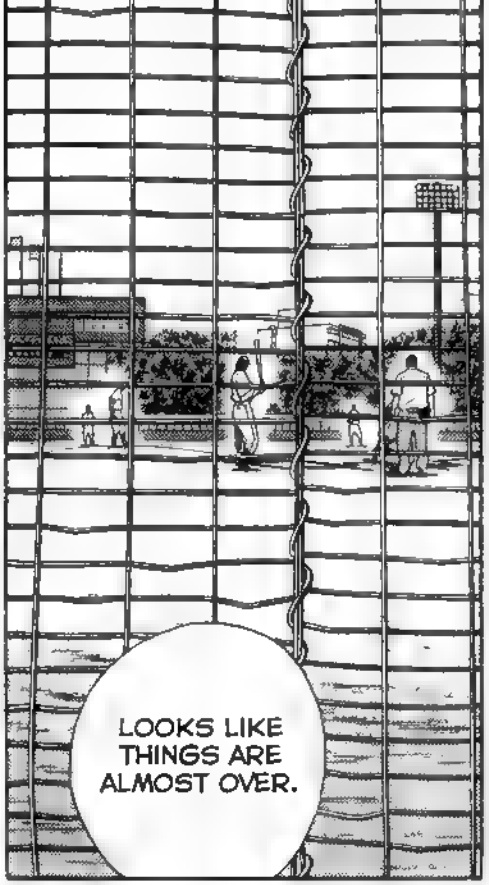

THIS IS A MATTER OF FEELING.
IF YOU STAND UP TO IT WITH A FAST SWING, THAT BALL MIGHT AS WELL NOT EVEN BE MOVING.


EVEN IF OKADA AND HIYAMA GO DOWN, YOU'LL STAND UP TO LAND ON THE BASE NEXT.
I'M SERIOUSLY COUNTING ON YOU! YOU HIT THAT SACRIFICE FLY....
FAST-ERRRR...
FASTERRR, MY SWINGS WILL GET...
HIRA-TSUKA...
I'M FINE GOING AFTER YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT, FASTERRRR...
I'M GONNA LAND ON THE BASE...
STRIIIKE!
BATTER OUT!
.....
AHH HHH!


THE DROP OF THE FORK IS GETTING DULLER.
HUH?
NO... NOT QUITE.
EVEN KNOWING THAT IT'S A WINNING PITCH FORK, AFTER SEEING A BALL THAT FAST...
DAMN IT!
1
TH... THEN...
HIYAMA!
KAWAKAMI'S FORK IS CLEARLY LOSING ITS OOMPH.
MMM... CONTINUAL FORKS DULL ONE'S GRIP.
THE FORK...
AIM FOR THE WINNING PITCH FORK!
THE FORK!

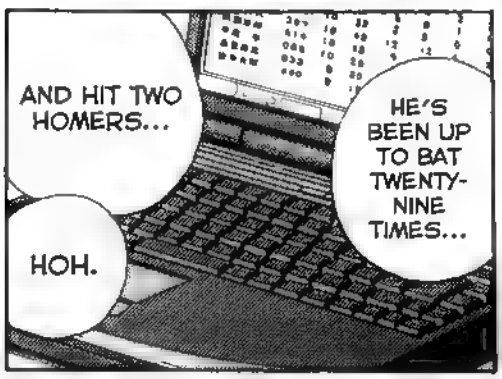

THEY TOOK FOUR POINTS FROM SASAZAKI, AFTER ALL.
NIKOGAKU PUT UP A GREAT FIGHT, THOUGH.


HOW COULD THEY WIN AT THIS POINT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THINGS AREN'T OVER YET.


LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ALMOST OVER.


NIKOGAKU'S BATTING TRUMP CARD, HIRATSUKA TAIRA!
THEY HAVE HIRATSUKA!


HUH?
!


AND HIT TWO HOMERS...
HE'S BEEN UP TO BAT TWENTY-NINE TIMES...
HOH.


HEHEH! I'VE GOT DATA ON NIKOGAKU ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THEIR SCRIMMAGES!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
TAP TAP

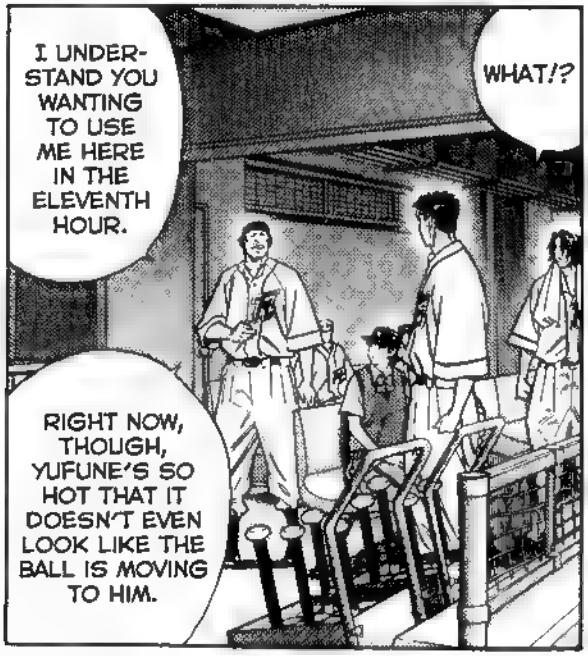

HE HIT A WALK-OFF HOMER IN THE FIRST YOUGA GAME!
HEH! AND HOW ARE HIS OTHER STATS?
OTHERS?


記者席
GYAHA-HAHA! ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
EVERYTHING BESIDES HIS HOME RUNS WERE STRIKE-OUTS!?
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
STRIKE-OUTS.
TWENTY-SEVEN
AND...
PLEASE!


OAAAA AHHHH!
KUH!
AHH HHH!
OUUUU UUUT!
YEAAA AAAH, TWO OUTS!
.....


HEY, YUFUNE!
SORRY, BUT WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE NOW...


HE HIT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORK BALL JUST NOW.
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT!
PROOF THAT THE DROP IS GETTING DULLER.


I UNDERSTAND YOU WANTING TO USE ME HERE IN THE ELEVENTH HOUR.
WHAT!?
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, YUFUNE'S SO HOT THAT IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE THE BALL IS MOVING TO HIM.


!
WAIT A MINUTE.


IT ISN'T MY TURN YET.


I HAVE CONFIDENCE!
NO ONE CAN BEAT MY BATTING SPEED!

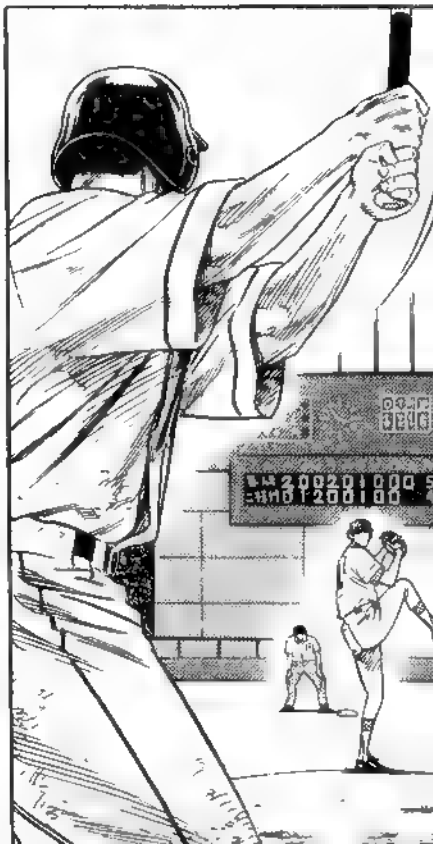

RIGHT?


.....
TH... THEY AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE IT UP...?
#8, FIRST BASEMAN, YUFUNE-KUN!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
IS... IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
FIRST BASEMAN, YUFUNE-KUN!
.....
Y... YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND, KAWATO-KUN!
W... WE ALREADY HAVE TWO OUTS!
LET'S PLACE OUR BETS ON YUFUNE.
NO...
ALRIIIIGHT! THIS IS THE LAST ONE! LET'S GOOOO!
KAWAKA-MIIIIII!
KA-WAKA-MIIIIII!
ONE MOOOORE!


ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
PLAY!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


I FEEL SOMETHING COMING FROM HIM NOW!
YUFUNE SAID HE HAS CONFIDENCE, AND I'M GOING TO BELIEVE IN HIM!


BRING IT ON! YOUR STRAIGHT IS NOTHING TO ME!
HIRATSUKA'S HYPNOSIS HAS GIVEN ME UNPARALLELED BATTING SPEED!

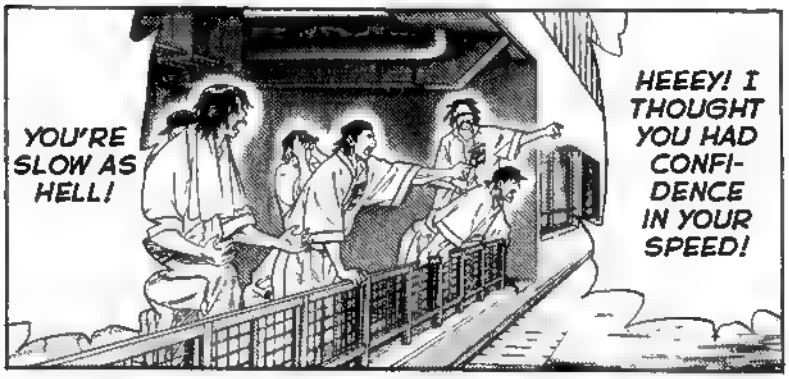



FUFU...
HOW CAN HE HAVE THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE...
WHAT'S HE THINKING?


NYAAAAAAAH!
STRIII IIKE!
UWAH!
SLOO OOOO OOOW!


H... HUH...!?
Vol.201
TOO FAST


YEAAAA AAAH!
TWO MOOOO OORE!


YOU'RE SLOW AS HELL!
HEEEY! I THOUGHT YOU HAD CONFI-DENCE IN YOUR SPEED!


YUFU-NE...


KA... KAWA-TO-KUN!


....??
CHOKE UP ON THE BAT!


KUH...


YOU THINK THINGS WILL JUST GO THIS SMOOTHLY?
IF HE CAN PITCH THIS WELL AT THE END, THEN I UNDERSTAND CHIBA-SAN TELLING HIM NOT TO SWING BACK THERE.
KAWAKAMI IS GOING TO BRING IT TO US 'TIL THE END.
IT'S COMING, IT'S COMING!


LOOK AT THAT FACE.


SEEMS LIKE KAWATO'S IDIOTIC ACTIONS HAVE GIVEN KAWAKAMI THE CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE HE NEEDED.


LOOKS LIKE HE'S BROKEN THROUGH.
EH?






ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
KAWAKAMI... YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING.
STRANGE...
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
3
IS THIS TO SAY MY HYPNOSIS DIDN'T WORK...!?
WHY IS HE SWING-ING TOO LATE...?
DAMMIT, SHUT UP!


オオオオオ
YUFU-
NE...
PLEASE
...
ONE
MORE!
ONE
MORE!
ハッ
ア
ア
ア


3
NYA...
STRIKE!
AHH... COME ON...
WHYYYYY!? WHY IS HE SWINGING SO LATE!?
ALRIGHT! ONE MORE STRIKE!
IS THIS THE END...?
AHHH HH...


ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
KAWA-KAMI!!!!!!
ONE MORE STRIIIKE!
C'MON, KAWA-KAMI!!!!!
THE LAST OOOONE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!

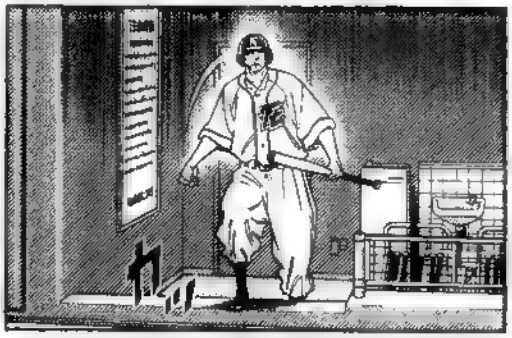

KUH...
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
KOSHIEN...
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
NOW GET PREPARED.
HIRATSUKA'S GOING NEXT.
IMAOKA!
I KNOW YOU WANT TO HIT, BUT STAY BACK HERE!
EH?


PREPARE TO SHOOT A FAREWELL HOMER!!
WHA... WHAT...!?
.....
A FINAL ONE TO SETTLE IT ALL.
ALRIGHT, NOW JUST ONE MORE OF THOSE FAST ONES.
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


YUFUNE...
オオオオオオ
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


SWING FAST! SWING FAST!
A... ANYTHING IS FINE... JUST SWING FAST...! SWING FAST!


MY HYP-NOSIS IS WORK-IIIIING!!




YOUR SWINGS ARE FAST!
DON'T WORRY!


WHA...
HYPNO-
SIS...
SWING
FAAAAST!


NYAAAAAAH!


EHHHH!?






BUT IT ISN'T EVEN THERE YET!


NO WAAAAAY!
MUOHHHH, WHAT THE!?


オオオ
BES-
SHO!
5
YU...
YUFUNE,
RUUUUN!
BES-
SHO!
オオオ
.....
ド!!!


FAIR, FAIR!
.....
AHHHH, HE CAN'T CATCH IT!
OH.
OHHH...
OH...


WH... WHAT THE!?
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW!!?
THE BAT SWUNG COMPLETELY AROUND...!?
HOW IS THAT POS-SIBLE!?
NYAAAAAAAAAH!
HAWA... WAH...
HA... AHH...
.....
HE CON-NECTED! HE CON-NECTED IIIIT!
WHOAAAAA! AWESOME!
WE CAN DO THIS! WE CAN DO THIS, DAMMIT!

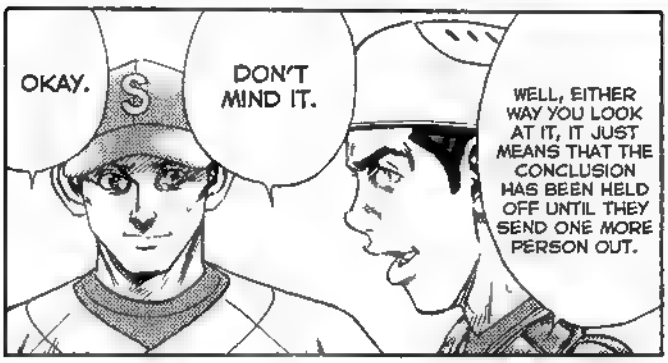

10
HIRATSU-KAAAAA!!
AL-RIIIGHT, HERE IT IS! HERE IT IS, GUYS!
THE STAGE IS SET!
UOOOHHH HHHHHH!
SHAAAAAAA AAHHHH!!!

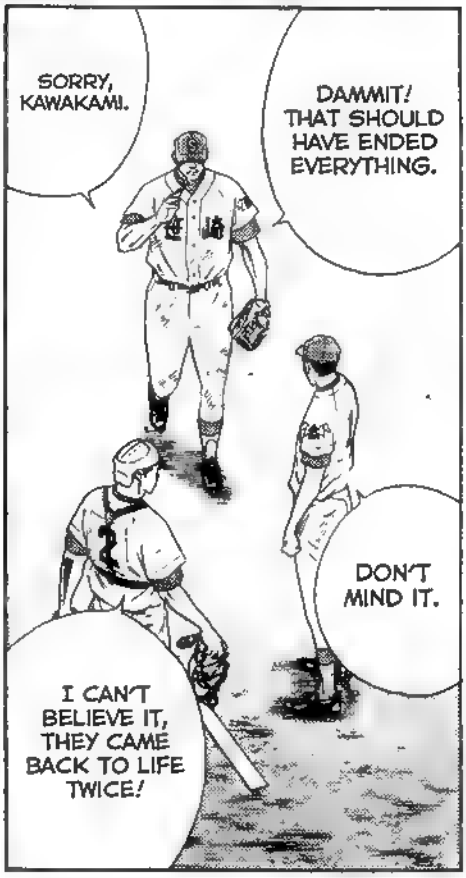









OKAY.
DON'T MIND IT.
WELL, EITHER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, IT JUST MEANS THAT THE CONCLUSION HAS BEEN HELD OFF UNTIL THEY SEND ONE MORE PERSON OUT.





Can you hear the Hiratsuka Call?

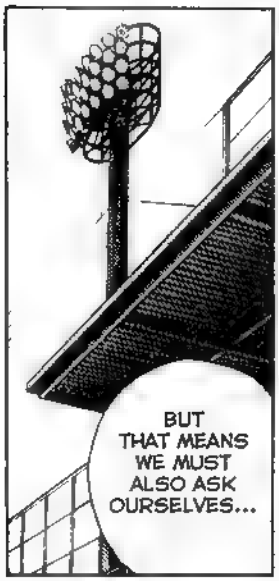

NO, NO, LOOK! HE'S FINALLY COMING OUT.
IF THEY WIN WITH THAT, IT REALLY WILL BE A MIRACLE.

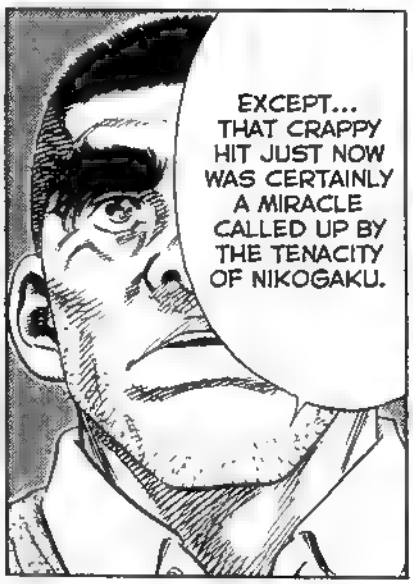

JUST BEFORE THE GAME WAS SET, A SINGLE FLUKE KEPT THEM HANGING ON.
SHOULD WE CALL IT LUCK, OR A MIRACLE? A MIRACLE, MAYBE.


I SURE DON'T.
WHO KNOWS.


WELL, THESE ARE THE EXACT TYPES OF SITUATIONS WHERE HE ENDS UP BEING USEFUL... PROBABLY.
THE GUY WITH TWENTY-SEVEN STRIKEOUTS?


RIGHT? RIGHT, YOSHI-SAN!?
KUKU...


BUT THAT MEANS WE MUST ALSO ASK OURSELVES...


EXCEPT... THAT CRAPPY HIT JUST NOW WAS CERTAINLY A MIRACLE CALLED UP BY THE TENACITY OF NIKOGAKU.


AHAHA HAHA!
.....


ARE MIRACLES THE KIND OF THING THAT HAPPEN ONE AFTER ANOTHER?
IN EXCHANGE FOR UNIFORM #9, IMAOKA-KUN, IS——
FUTAKOGAWA ACADEMY IS CHANGING ITS PLAYER!
BATTING NINTH, SECOND BASEMAN, HIRATSUKA-KUN!
OHHHH!?
WHAT!?
UNIFORM NUMBER 10!
HIRATSUKA-KUN!
YEAAAAAAH!


カコ




AND WHAT WAS THAT HYPNOSIS ABOUT BEFORE!? HYPNOSIS!!?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE GONNA BE ALRIGHT OUT THERE!?
SHUT UP.


1A
THAT'S IT!?
THERE WAS NO POINT TO THAT!


STOOOOOOP!
I CAN HIT IT!
I CAN HIT IT!
I CAN HIT IT!
I CAN HIT IT!
NNN...
CAN THIS CLOWN!
KAWAKAMI!!! MAKE HIM STRIKE OUT!
WHAT'S THAT GUY PLAYING AROUND FOR?
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
THIS MAY JUST BE HIS WAY TO RELAX.
WH... WHAT!?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF SITUATION YOU'RE IN!?
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE!
GET AHOLD OF...

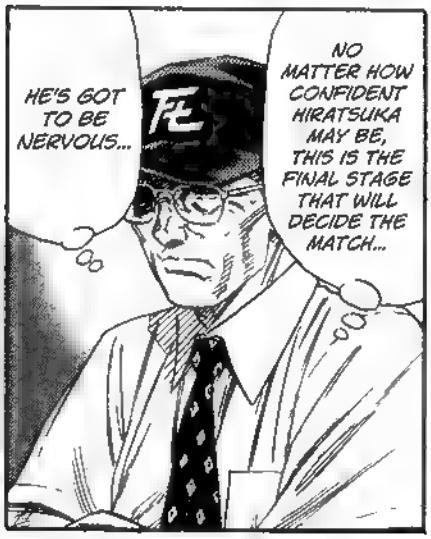

HIRATSUKA HAS TO...
BUT, IT'S ALRIGHT... HIRATSUKA WILL DO SOMETHING FOR US...


I... IT'S STARTED AGAIN...
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


SHUT UP, LET ME CONCEN-TRATE!
HIRA-TSUKA!




.....


HE'S GOT TO BE NERVOUS...
NO MATTER HOW CONFIDENT HIRATSUKA MAY BE, THIS IS THE FINAL STAGE THAT WILL DECIDE THE MATCH...

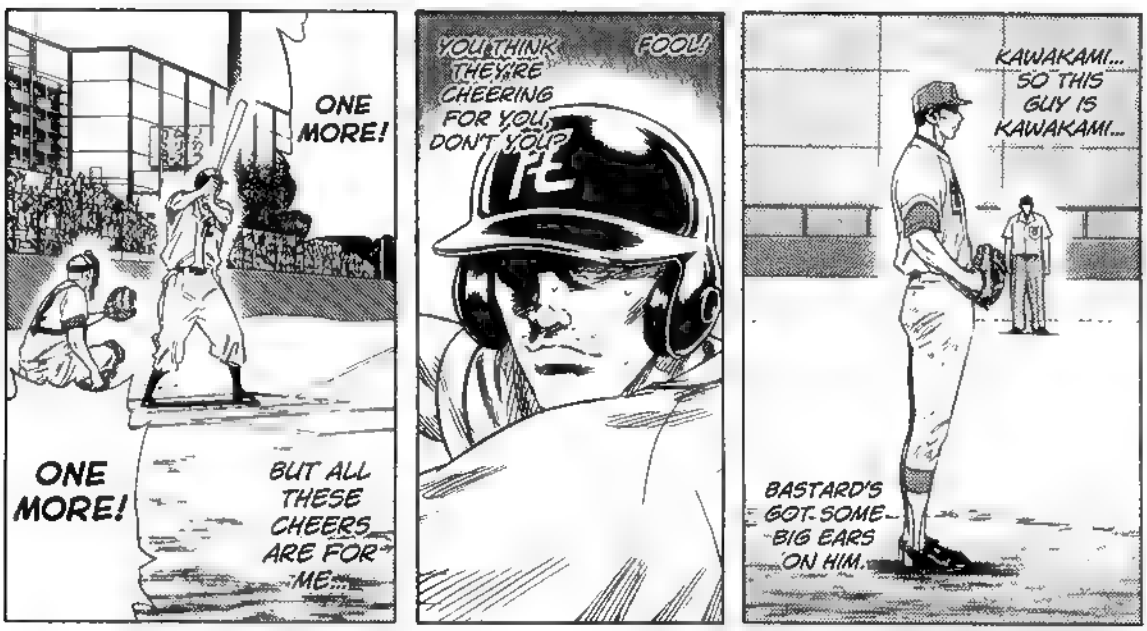

ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


THIS HUGE HIRATSUKA CALL!
HUH!?
CAN YOU HEAR IT, HIRATSUKA?
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
WHA...
AND IT'S SAYONARA!
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS HIT THE BALL,
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
HUH?
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!

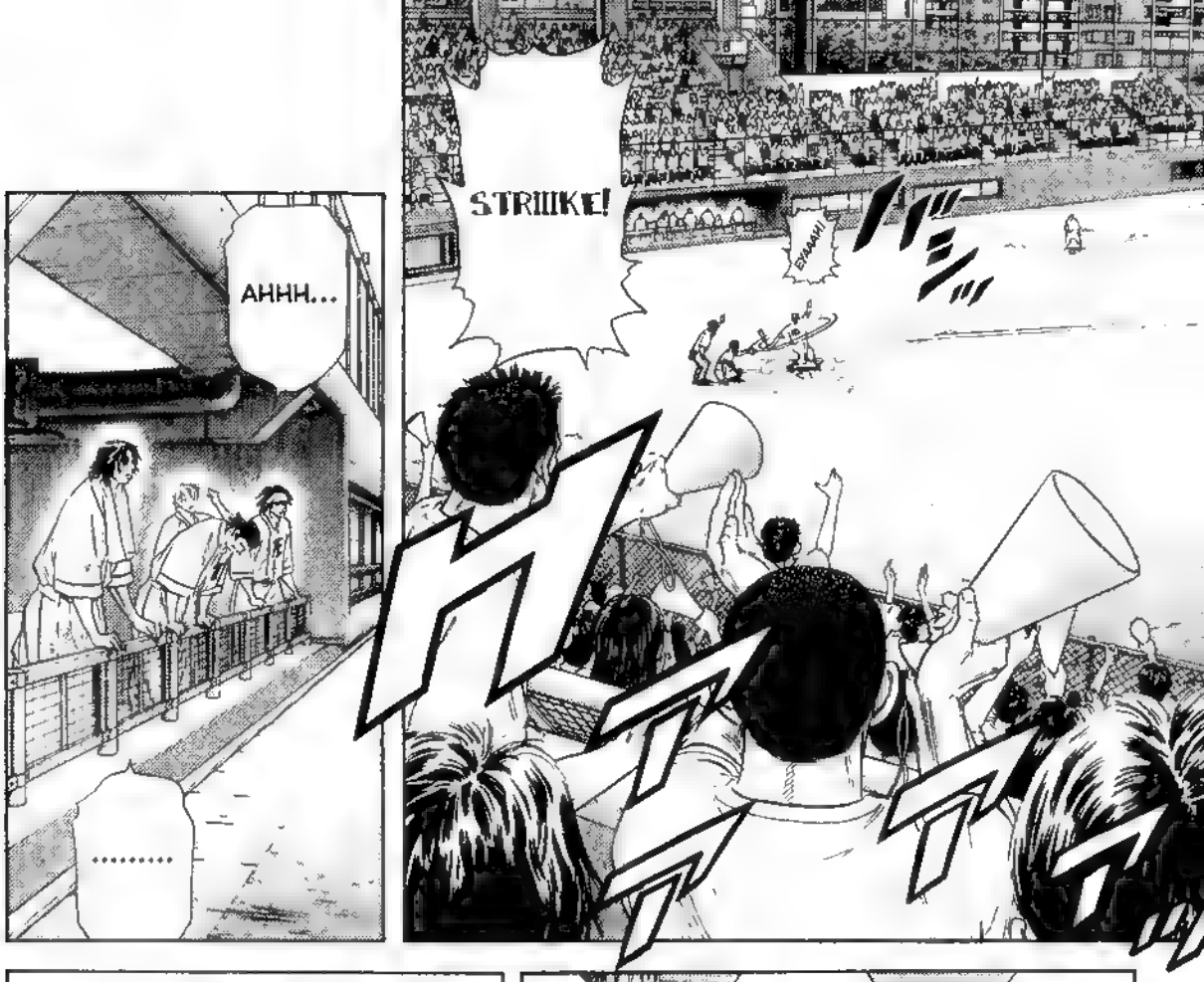

OHH...
HIRA-TSUKA!
HIRA-TSUKA!
10
HIRA-TSUKA!
HIRA-TSUKA!
...NO, IT SOUNDS LIKE!
HIRA-TSUKA!
HIIIRA-TSUKA!
EH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OHHH"...?
OHHHH...
OHHH HHHH HHH!


THAT'S IT! JUST ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
PLAY!
ALRIGHT, HERE IT COMES!


THE HUGE CHEERS, ALL FOR ME...
ONE MORE!
I CAN HEAR IT...
ONE MORE!


ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
BUT ALL THESE CHEERS ARE FOR ME...
YOU THINK THEY'RE CHEERING FOR YOU, DON'T YOU?
FOOL!
KAWAKAMI... SO THIS GUY IS KAWAKAMI...
BASTARD'S GOT SOME BIG EARS ON HIM.


1
CHEERS CALLING FOR MY SAYONARA!
THE FIRST BALL! SEND THE FIRST BALL FLYING!
S
TO THE LEFT STANDS!!


AHHH...
.....
STRIIIKE!
EHAAAH!




.....
ARE HIS EYES EVEN OPEN?
GYAHA HAHAHA! HE'S NO GOOD!


KUH...


HIRA-TSU-KAAAAA!


HIRA-TSUKA...


10
BUT SUCH A FEAT IS IMPOSSIBLE AGAINST KAWAKAMI!
IT'S TRUE THAT IF IT COMES STRAIGHT TO HIS FACE, HIS WILD DEFENSIVE INSTINCTS GIVE HIM THE POSSIBILITY OF HITTING IT.
WE'VE WORKED SO HARD ALL THIS TIME JUST TO CONNECT IT TO HIRATSUKA...
I FELT, THOUGH, THAT EVEN IF WE SUDDENLY CONNECTED IT TO HIM LIKE THAT, THAT PROBABLY NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN.
IF WE MUST REACH OUT FOR A SINGLE RAY OF HOPE IN THIS DESPAIRING SITUATION, HOWEVER, THEN I SUPPOSE HE'S ALL WE HAVE...
DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TALK!
GIVE IT UP, #10!
MU!?
HIRA-TSUKAAA! GET OVER HERE!
.....
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!

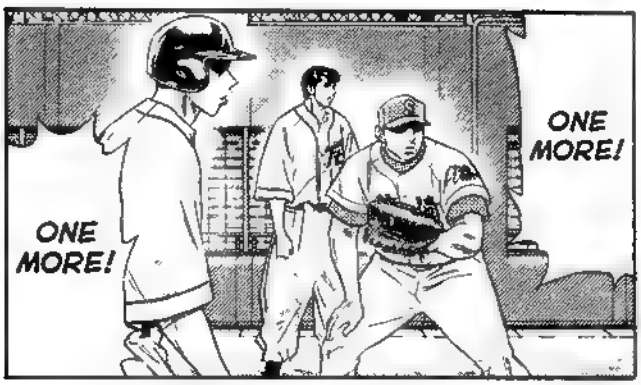

ONE MORE!
O... OKAY...
ALRIGHT, GO!
LET'S SEE YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT, HIRATSUKA!
ONE MORE!






ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


PLAY!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


ONE MORE!
ONE MORE!


HIRA-TSUKA...
ONE MORE!


YOUR CHANCE TO GO OUT THERE AND HIT IT SERIOUSLY IS EXCEEDINGLY CLOSE TO ZERO.
HM? ...OH...
WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM, SENSEI?
BUT THERE IS ONE WAY TO CALL A GOOD BALL.
A GOOD BALL?
A STRAIGHT-ON FACE BALL ISN'T GONNA COME.
.....
AND IF IT DOESN'T COME, THEN YOU JUST HAVE TO MAKE ONE YOURSELF.
笹崎
H!!!


N... NO WAY...
S
山奇
WHETHER YOU HIT IT OR NOT, THOUGH, IS UP TO YOU.
!


AHHH, SO HE REALLY IS GONNA GO HIT IT STRAIGHT-ON!?
HE'S NUTS!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BET EVERYTHING ELSE ON YOUR MIRACLE SWING!
UOOO HHHH HHHH!




Vol.203 Ahh, That Idiot

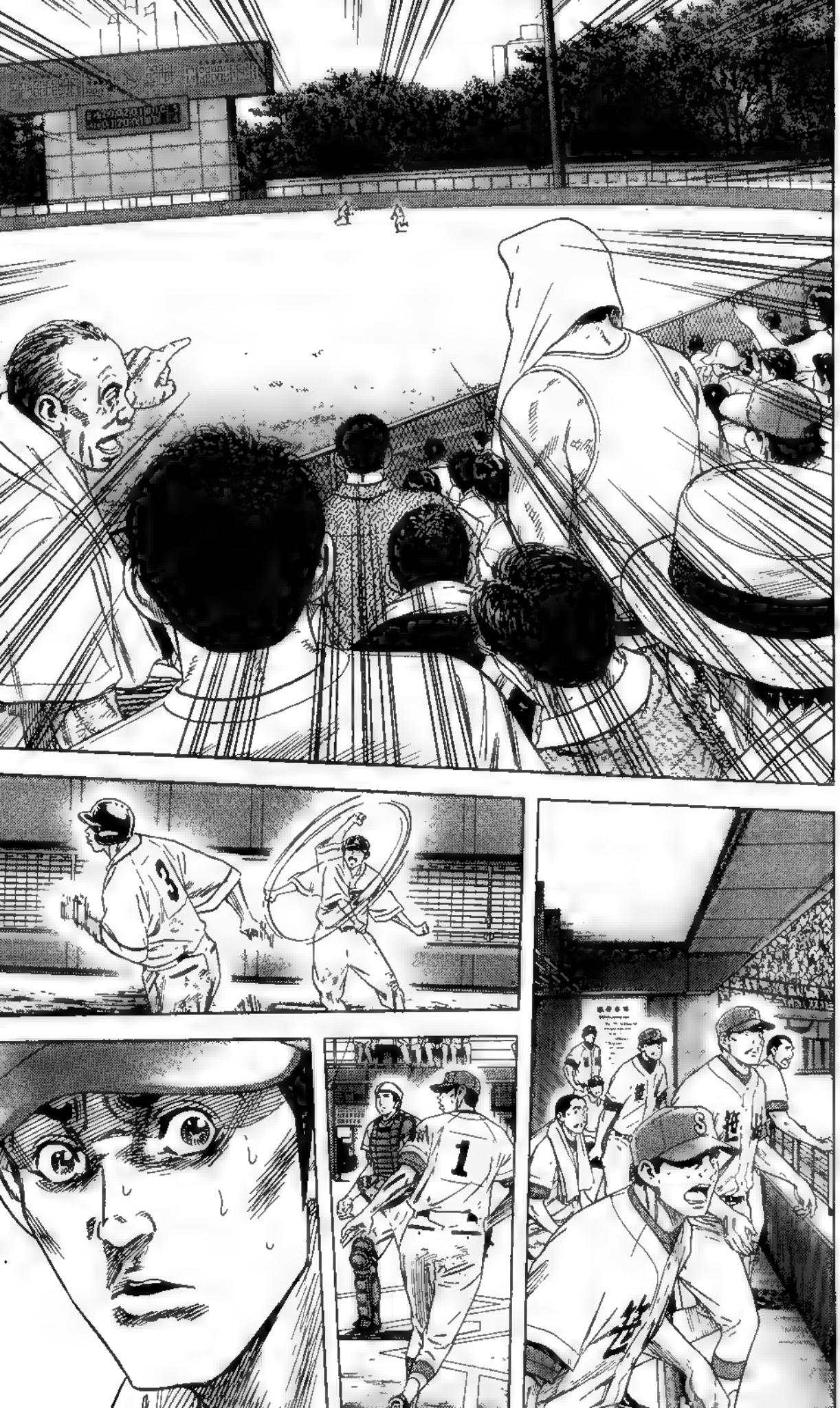

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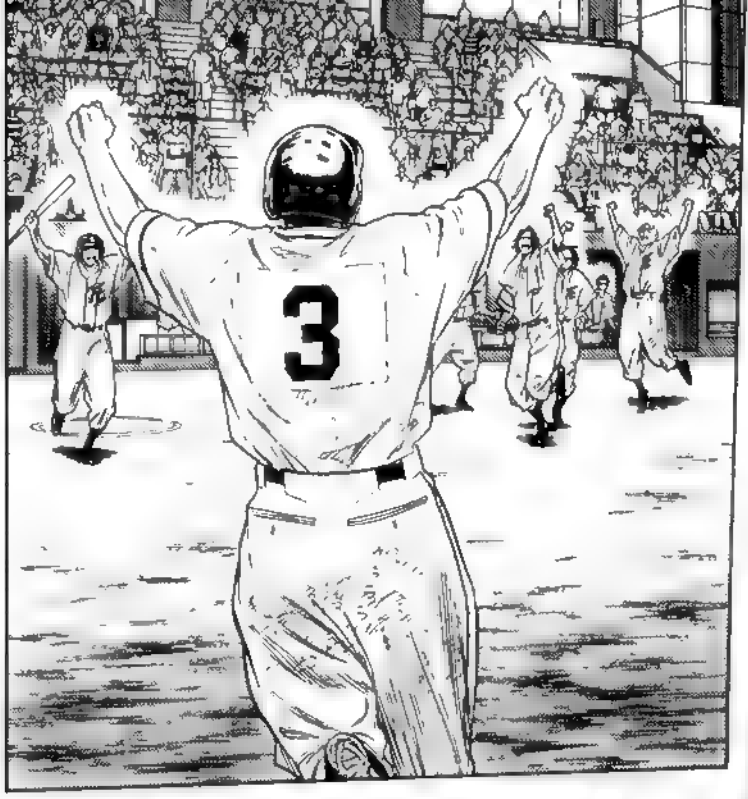






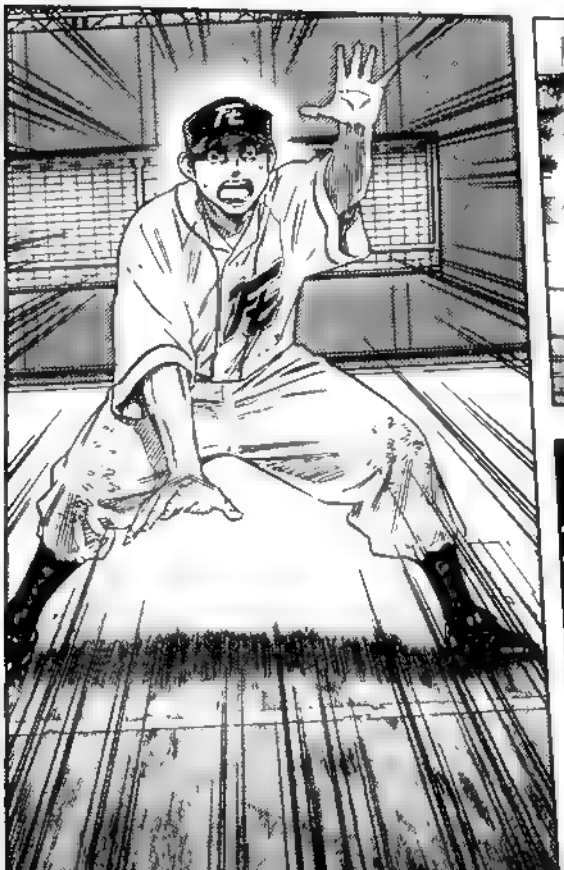





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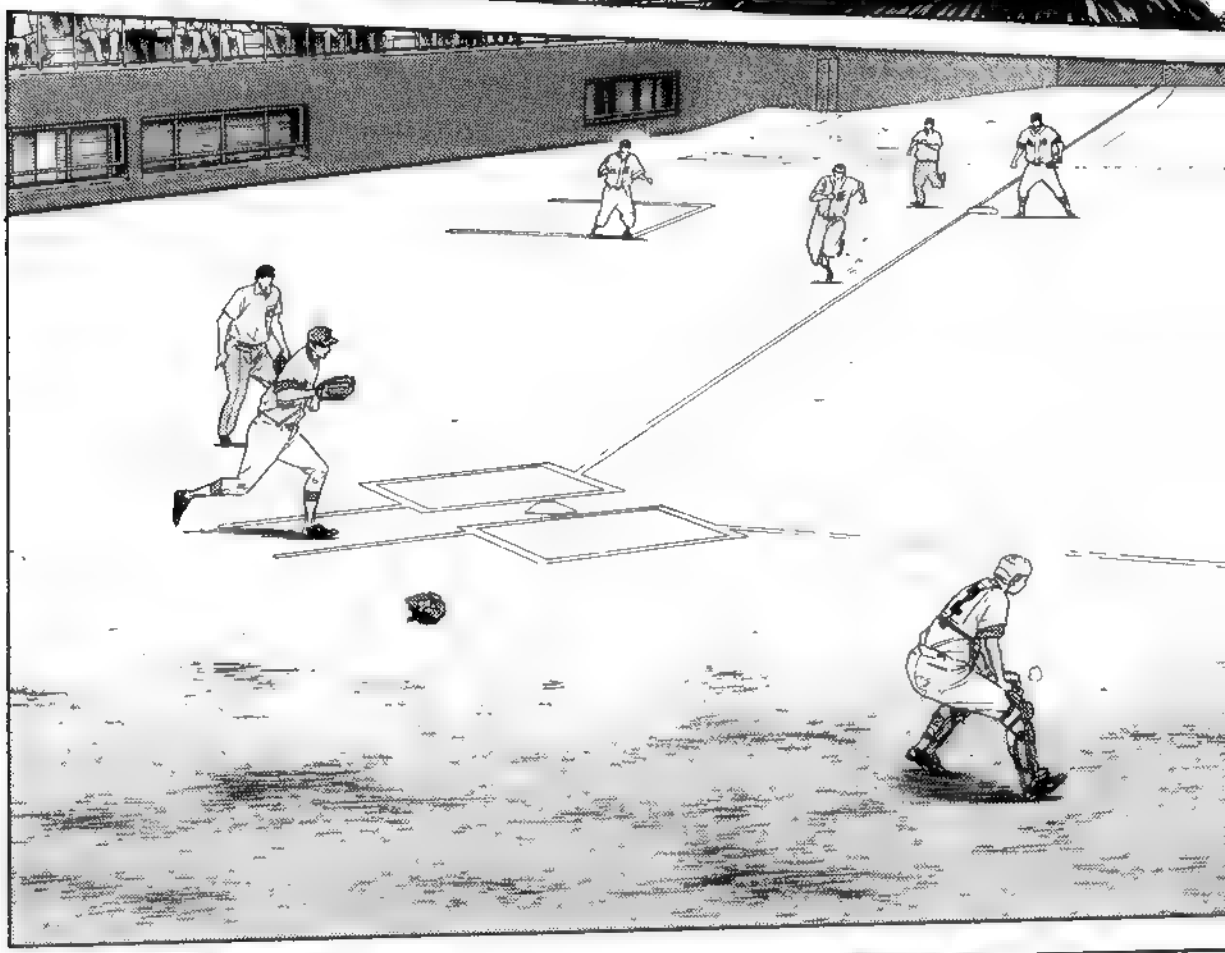



I...
AM THE MAN WHO'S GOT TO SHINE ON THE SAYONARA STAGE!!


THAT IDIOT...
AHH...








西崎








THIS IS YOUR BEGINNING.
CRAWL ON UP.

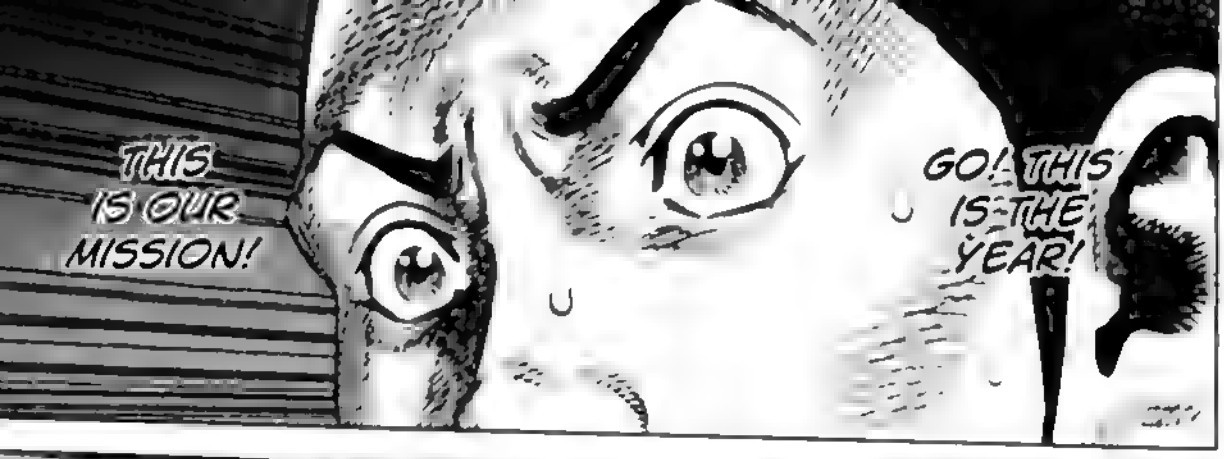

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10
KAWA-
KAMI!!!!!

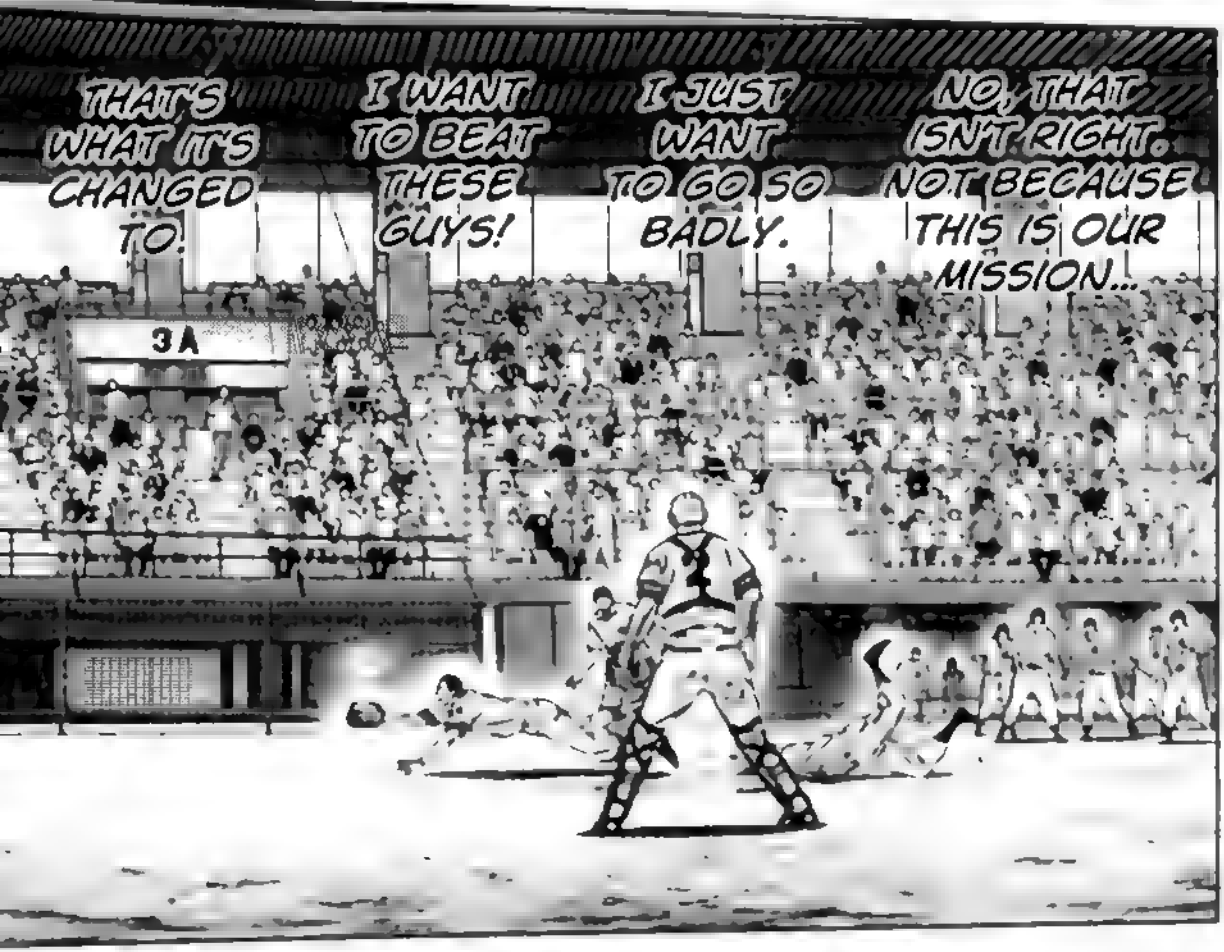







I PROMISE TO BRING SASAZAKI TO THE KOSHIEN NEXT YEAR TOO.
ALRIGHT?


THIS IS OUR MISSION!
GO! THIS IS THE YEAR!

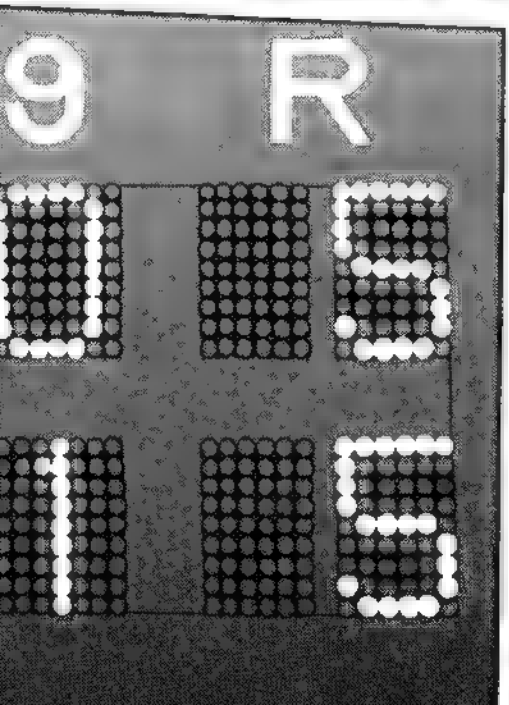

THAT'S WHAT IT'S CHANGED TO.
I WANT TO BEAT THESE GUYS!
I JUST WANT TO GO SO BADLY.
NO, THAT ISN'T RIGHT. NOT BECAUSE THIS IS OUR MISSION...
3A


I'M NOT THE ONE BRINGING YOU ALL.
I FEEL THAT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.


RIGHT, MURATA?


WE ALL HAVE TO GRASP OURSELVES.
THE KOSHIEN IS SOMETHING
GUOOOOOOOOO!!
GU
GU




9 R




HIRA-TSUKA DID IT!
SEE! SEE, SEE, SEE!
HE WENT ABSO-LUTELY CRAZY, BUT HE DID IT!
TH... THEY CAUGHT UP...
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
JUST WHAT... WHAT IS WITH THAT TEAM...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... AND WITH A SWING LIKE THAT...



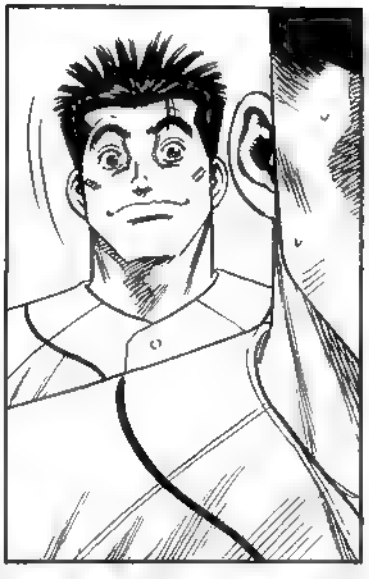
Vol.204 Extended? Excellent!


NO MATTER HOW QUICKLY YOU JUMP DOWN TO PICK UP THE BALL, YOU STILL HAVE TO TOUCH IT A SECOND TIME, RIGHT!?
RIGHT, YOSHI-SAN!?
HUH?
AT THE POINT WHERE KAWAKAMI DROPPED THE BALL.
WASN'T THE RUNNER SAFE?
EHHHH, SERI-OUSLY!?
RIGHT!? THE RULES SAY THAT—
IT'S AN OUT.
HE DROPPED IT AFTER THE OUT HAD HAPPENED.
HE KEPT THE BALL FIRMLY DURING THE CROSS PLAY.


WE CAN'T TAKE EVERY LITTLE MINOR DETAIL INTO ACCOUNT WHEN IT COMES TO RULES.
B... BUT HE JUMPED DOWN DESPERATELY...
KAKAKA! HE'S RIGHT.
.....
THAT'S WHAT PLAYERS DO.
IF A BALL IS DROPPED, THEN JUMPING DOWN IS NATURAL.
EACH SEPARATE PLAY IS A FRANTIC ONE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IDIOT!
WE COULD HAVE SAID SAYONARA THERE!
YEAH! JUST GO DIE AL-READY!
WHAT THE FUCK WERE YOU DOING!? WHY WOULD YOU GO AROUND LIKE THAT!?
HEY, AT LEAST JUST BE HAPPY THAT WE GOT A TIE!
.....


HIRA-TSUKA...
HUH?
.....
YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING, HIRA-TSUKA! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HIT THAT!
YOU REALLY ARE...
...AW, COME ON.
HEHEH...
YOU COULD HAVE DIED THERE.
I TOLD YOU TO HIT THE BALL RIGHT BEFORE WHILE DODGING, DIDN'T I?
WHAT KIND OF A PLAYER HITS LIKE THAT?
OKAY! DEFENSE, DEFENSE!
ALRIGHT EVERYONE, TIME FOR THE EXTRA INNINGS!
THIS IS WHAT NIKO-GAKU'S ALL ABOUT!
HA HA HAAAAH! AN EXTENSION! DID YOU SEE THAT!?


YOU REALLY WERE AWESOME OUT THERE, THOUGH.
10
THE TIMELIEST MIRACLE I'VE EVER SEEN!
HITTING THE BALL UNDER ALL THAT PRESSURE!




IT'S BECAUSE IT WAS YOU OUT THERE, HIRATSUKA-KUN, THAT WE GOT THIS TIE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMETHING THAT AMAZING.


BUT IT'S JUST A STUPID TIE NOW.






NOW LET'S GO TO THE KOSHIEN!
IT'S ALRIGHT. I KNOW WE CAN WIN THIS.


MOVE IT, PITCHER CHANGE!
THE TIE MAN HIRA-TSUKA HAS AR-RIIIVED!
WHAT!?
ALRIIIIIGHT!
ふー！
.....
I DON'T WANNA HEAR SORRY!


B... BESSHO-SAN...
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS KEEP ATTACK-ING!
LET'S SHOW THEM THE REAL SASAZAKI!
STUFF LIKE THIS HAPPENS!
WHO CARES IF IT'S A TIE!?
YOUR PITCHING IS THE BEST, REMEMBER!?


A... ALRIGHT!


EVERY-ONE...
BESSHO-SAN...


THAT'S RIGHT, THE REAL GAME STARTS NOW!
EX-TENDED? EXCEL-LENT!


.....

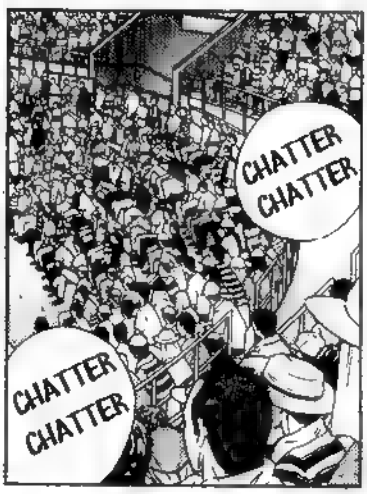

DON'T YOU UNDERES-TIMATE US, NIKOGAKU!
LET'S ALL GO OUT THERE TOGETHER!
OKAY, EVERYONE GET INTO A CIRCLE!

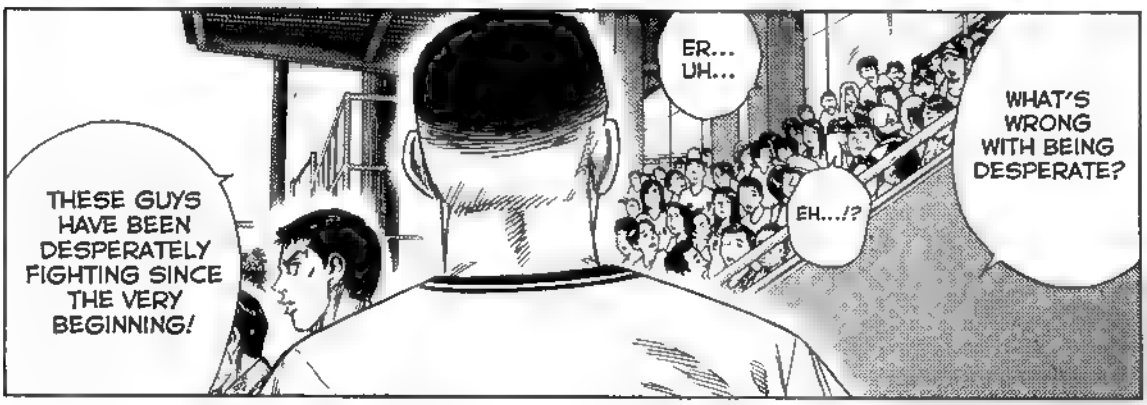

THESE BOYS...


オオ!!!
WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO THE KOSHIEN!
LET'S DO IT ONE MORE TIME!
YEAAAH!
YOU'RE OUR CAPTAIN, AREN'T YOU!?


THEY'RE LIKE, GETTING ALL DESPERATE AND SHIT NOW.
KUHAAAH... A TIE?
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST WIN CLEANLY LIKE USUAL?
LOOK AT THEM, MAKING ANOTHER CIRCLE LIKE THAT. ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

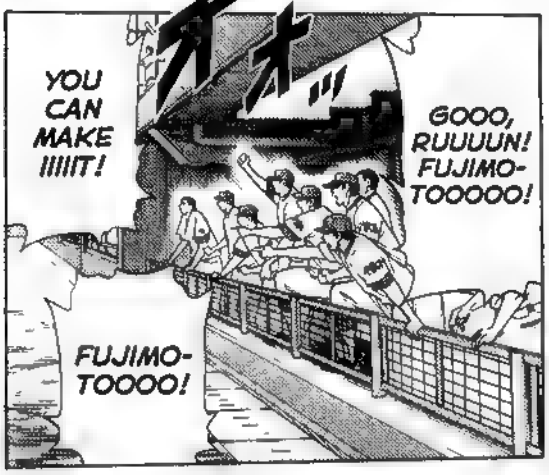



CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER


ER... UH...
EH...!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING DESPERATE?
THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN DESPERATELY FIGHTING SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING!

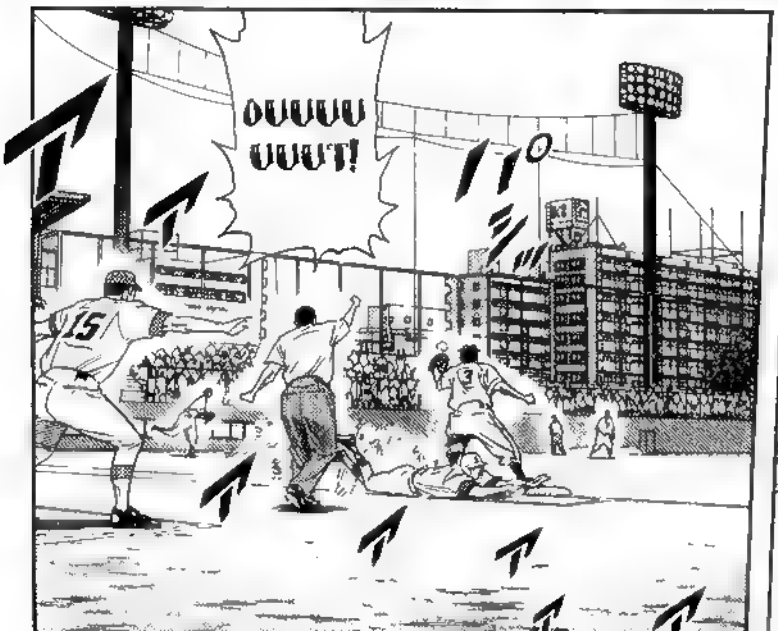



.....
SAITO...


YOU CAN MAKE IIIIT!
GOOO, RUUUUN! FUJIMO-TOOOOO!
FUJIMO-TOOOO!





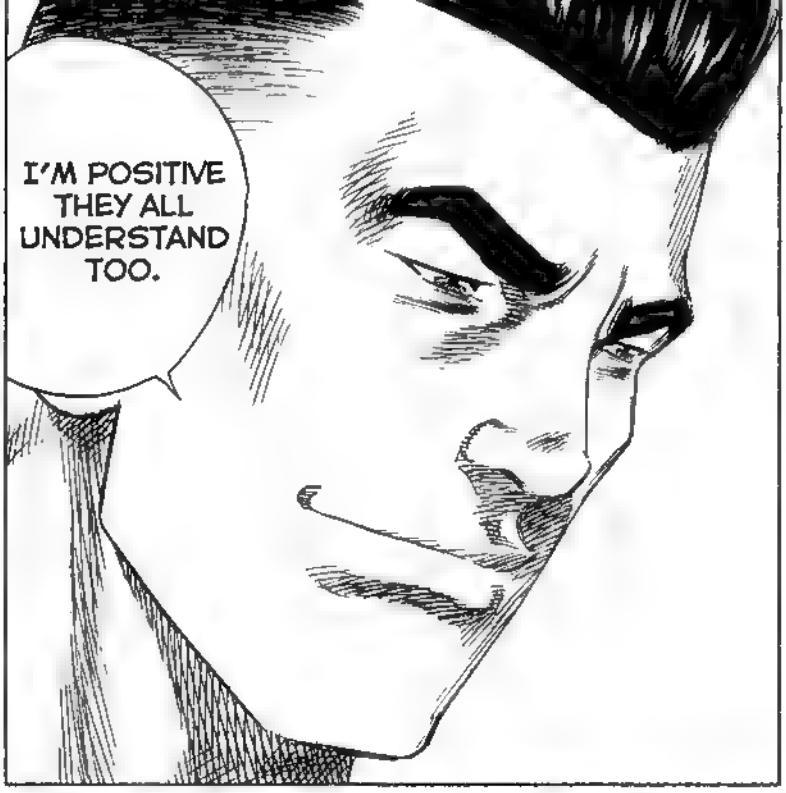

OUUUU UUUT!




HIT IT AND GO, HIT IT AND GO!
DON'T MIND IT!
LET'S TAKE IT EASY NOW, NAKAJIMA!
OKAY!
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN.
HUH?
I THINK THE KOSHIEN REALLY IS THE KIND OF PLACE...
NAKAJI-MAAAAA!
NAKAJI-MAAAAA!
NAKAJI-MAAAAA!
A PLACE YOU GO AFTER PLAYING DESPERATELY AND WINNING.
IT'S SOMEWHERE YOU GO FOR YOUR OWN GLORY...
OR FROM WANTING TO RETURN A DEBT...
YOU DON'T GO TO BECAUSE OF FEELING RES-PONSIBILITY,
IT ISN'T THE SORT OF PLACE YOU GO TO WITH A SENSE THAT IT'S YOUR MISSION.


THEY SHOULD BE OUT THERE FIGHTING WITH THE BEST PLAYS THEY'VE GOT
THAT THEY DESPERATELY TRIED TO PERFECT DURING PRACTICE.
THAT'S WHY THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ONLY WINNING ALONE.
SAITO...
SUDA-SAN, FIIIIGHT!
IF THEY DO THAT, THEN IT SHOULDN'T BE PAINFUL NO MATTER THE RESULT.
SUDA, YOU'VE GOT IT TODAY!
DON'T MIND IT! ANIYA'S FORCE IS DROPPING!
17
HAND IT OVER TO BESSHO!
LET'S END IT ALL IN ONE HIT!

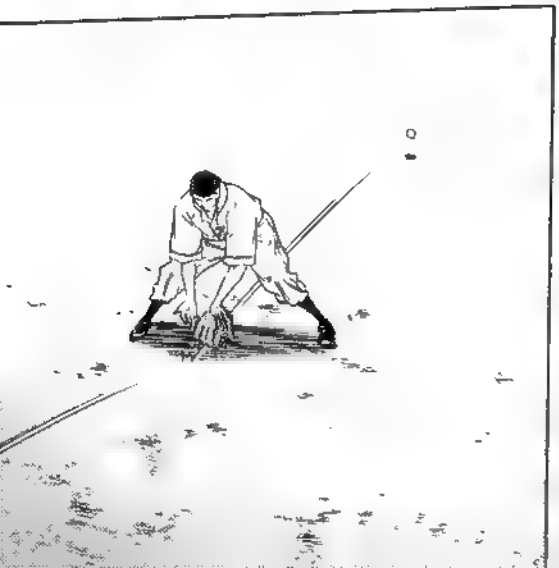



I'M POSITIVE THEY ALL UNDERSTAND TOO.












KUH...
YEAAAAH, IT GOT THROOOUGH!
.....
BATTING FOURTH, THIRD BASEMAN, BESSHO-KUN!
THIRD BASEMAN, BESSHO-KUN!
STAY CALM!
ANIYA! WE'VE GOT TWO OUTS!
BES-SHOOO! WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
YEAH!
BES-SHO!
DON'T WORRY.
ANIYA!


HOW COULD I LET THEM GET A HIT AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME?
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
PLAY!
ONE MORE HIT!
WE WANT TO SEE YOUR FOURTH HOMERUN OF THE DAY!!
BES-SHOOOO!


KEI-CHAN...!
DON'T HOLD BACK, BESSHO!
OHHHH, HERE COMES THE HEAD-ON DUEL!
BES-SHOOO!
STRIIIIKE!


OUR MOTIVATION IS DIFFERENT FROM YOURS!
HUH?
WE WON'T LOSE.
WE'VE OFFERED UP OUR LIVES THIS FAR, ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THE KOSHIEN.
.....!!


JUST A LITTLE MORE!
.....
DO ONE MOOORE!
WHOAAA, SO CLOSE!
ANIYAAA! TWO STRIKES!
SECOND! C'MON, SECOND!
FOUUU UUUL!
KEI-CHAN...
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!
BES-SHO!


I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT GOING TO THE KOSHIEN, THEN WE'RE RIGHT UP THERE WITH YOU.
ANIYA!
ANIYA!
ANIYA!
KEI-CHAN!
H'm...
THE ONES WHO ARE GONNA WIN


阪神甲子園球場
ARE US!

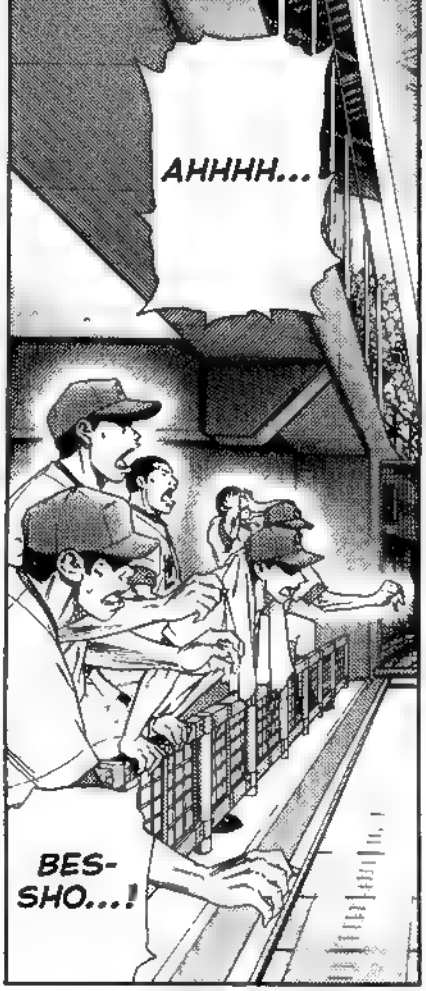

BATTER OUT!!
STRIII IIIIKE!











Vol.205 The Mound of Soul



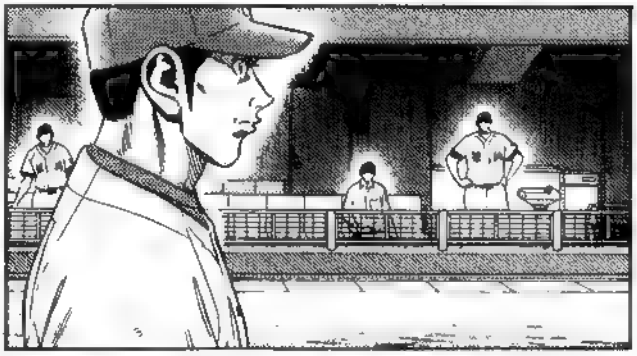



KUHH... SO HE REALLY DID IT!
ANIYA THREW PURE STRAIGHTS AT BESSHO UP UNTIL NOW.
THAT WAS AMAZING! WHAT IS HE THINKING!?
DAMMIT! HEY, WE'VE GOTTA KNOCK THEM DOWN HERE!
YEAH, DON'T LET ANYONE GET OUT OF THERE!
16
笹崎
YEAH!

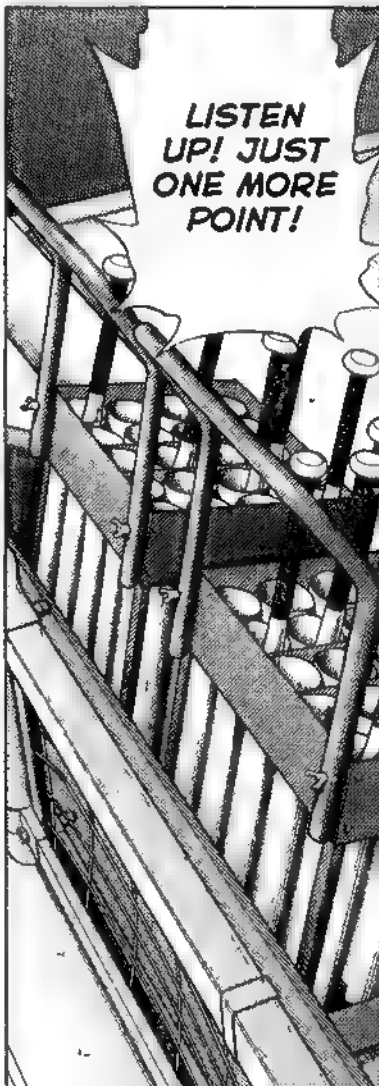

HEHEH! THAT SON OF A BITCH!
NIKOGAKU'S ANIYA!
BES-SHO-SAN!
ガッ
KAWA-KAMI!
DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING.
A ONE-ON-ONE COMPETITION IS... IS THE PLACE WHERE SASAZAKI TRULY SHINES... AND YET... DAMMIT!!
JUST SHOW THEM THE TRUE...
SOUL PITCHING!
1
崎
倉


ALRIGHT!






OUR BATTING ORDER IS SUPERIOR! LET'S END THIS NOW!
ONE MORE POINT AND WE CAN WIN!


LISTEN UP! JUST ONE MORE POINT!


オオ!!!
ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS!
GOOOOO! NIKOGAKU, GOOOO!!
HERE COMES THE SAYONARA!


YEAAA AAAH!
LET'S LAY IT ON 'EM!
TUCK YOUR GUTS IN!!
NO, ACTUALLY, AIM FOR THAT!
THREE STRIKES IS MORE THAN ENOUGH, KAWA-KAM!!!!!
LEAVE THE BACKUP TO US!
KAWA-KAM!!!!! TAKE IT EASY!
.....
AREN'T THINGS ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
EVER SINCE WE ENTERED THE EXTRA INNINGS, HAVEN'T THEY GOTTEN A LITTLE MORE TALKATIVE?
OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A CLOSE MATCH LIKE THIS BEFORE.
CHATTER CHATTER
KAWA-KAM!!!!!
KAWA-KAM!!!!!
KAWA-KAM!!!!!

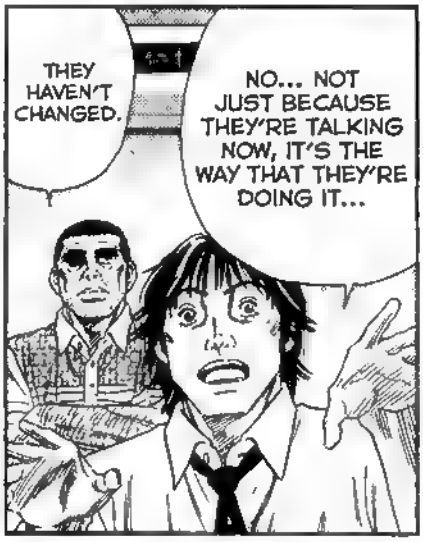

THAT'S IT, KEEP THAT BALL RUNNING!
OKAY! KAWAKAMI, NICE FORK!
KEEP THIS PACE UP!


KUAHH!
BATTER OUT!
STRIIIKE!


LOOK LIKE NIKOGAKU...
AHAH... THEY...

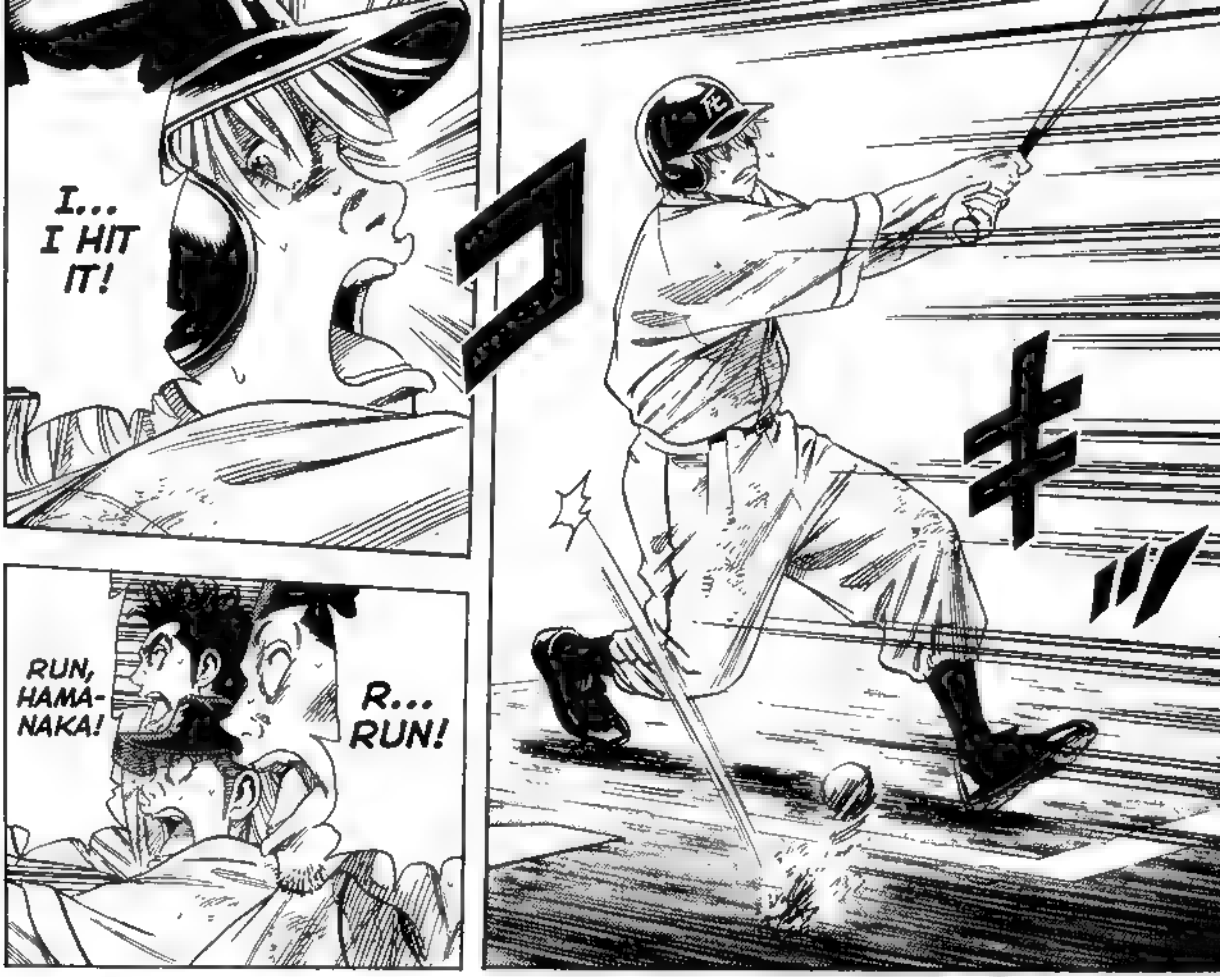


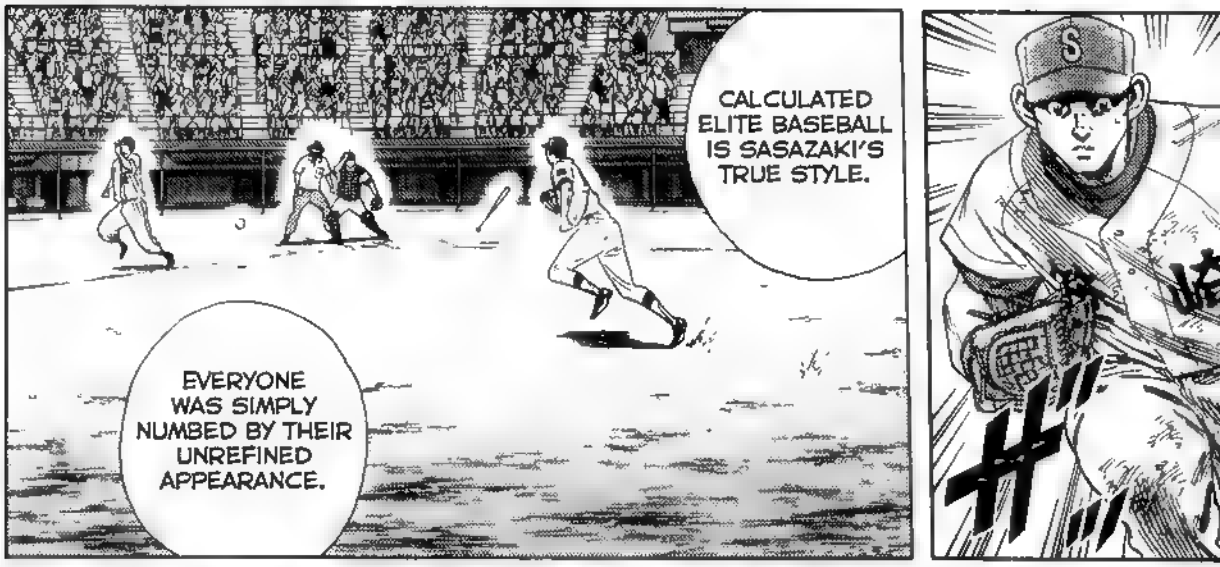

EH... NO... BUT UNTIL NOW...
THEY'VE REVERTED.


THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED.
NO... NOT JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE TALKING NOW, IT'S THE WAY THAT THEY'RE DOING IT...


TO THEIR TRUE FORMS.
GRADUALLY,


SOUL
IS KEY TO A
SUPER-ATTACK
FORMATION.


I... I HIT IT!
RUN, HAMA-NAKA!
R... RUN!


CALCULATED ELITE BASEBALL IS SASAZAKI'S TRUE STYLE.
EVERYONE WAS SIMPLY NUMBED BY THEIR UNREFINED APPEARANCE.


THE CROWD, AND THE PLAYERS.


AHHHH, THE TOSS!
12
.....
WHAT, ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
YOU DID IT, HAMA-NAKA!
HE'S THE SAYONARA RUNNER!
SAAAFE!


YEAAAAAAAH!
HAHAHA! YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
.....
Y... YEAH!
LET'S GET A DOUBLE PLAY TO GET 'EM BOTH OUT AT ONCE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KAWA-KAMI!
DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MAN FROM THE STANDS WAS SHOUTING ABOUT SASAZAKI BASEBALL!?
YOUR HEART MOST LIKELY BURNED AS WELL, AND YOU RISKED EVERYTHING YOU HAD WHEN YOU WERE A PLAYER!
IT'S FINE! DO YOUR BEST, KAWA-KAMI!
KAWA-KAMI!!!!!


PLEASE!
THIS WOUND ISN'T ANYTHING AT ALL!
PLEASE! PLEASE LET ME THROW!
PLEASE LET ME PITCH!
WE HAVE TO CHANGE! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN PITCH LIKE THAT!
KUH ...
COACH!
WE BEG YOU TOO, COACH!
MUU...
COACH!
CHIBA WILL DEFINITELY MAKE IT FOR US!


THIS IS AN ORDER.
ITEN-TIONALLY WALK THE NEXT BATTER, OGASA-WARA.
COACH!
I HAVE NO CHOICE... I'LL ALLOW YOU TO RETURN TO THE MOUND.
BUT WITH A CATCH.
REAL SASAZAKI BASEBALL IS...
LISTEN TO ALL THOSE CHEERS!
AHH, HERE COMES CHIBA!
AFTER SENDING A RUNNER TO SECOND BASE, HE MOMENTARILY RETURNED TO THE BENCH, AND WE THOUGHT THERE'D BE A CHANGE, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE IS GOING TO CONTINUE PITCHING!


THERE IS ONE BASE LEFT OPEN...
HOW IS THE DEAD BALL WOUND INFLUENCING HIS HEAD?
THE BATTER HE IS UP AGAINST IS THE TOURNAMENT SLUGGER, OGASAWARA!
ONOFUSA
CHIBA HAS ALREADY ALLOWED THIS MAN TO GET A HOME RUN TODAY!
YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING...
CHIBA...
C'MON, CHIBA!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT! GO, CHIBA!
CHIBA!
THAT GUY...
THE CATCHER IS READY IN THE CENTER.
WHAT A DUEL!

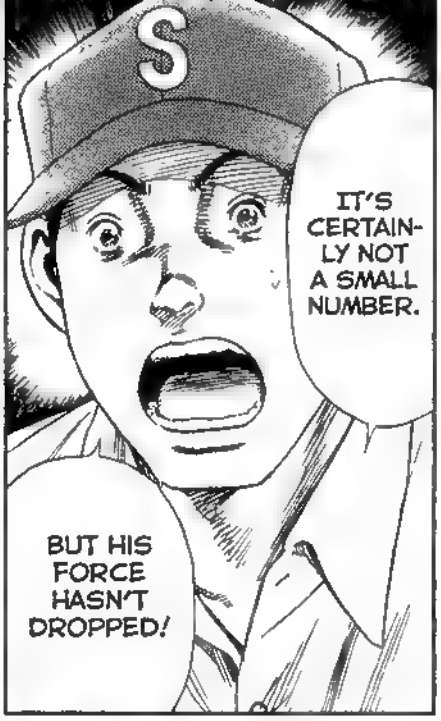

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FOURTH BATTER, PITCHER, ANIYA-KUN!
PITCHER, ANIYA-KUN!
MURATA!
Y... YES?
HOW MANY PITCHES HAS KAWAKAMI THROWN SO FAR?
UM... ER...


IT SEEMS THAT WAY.
YES.


.....

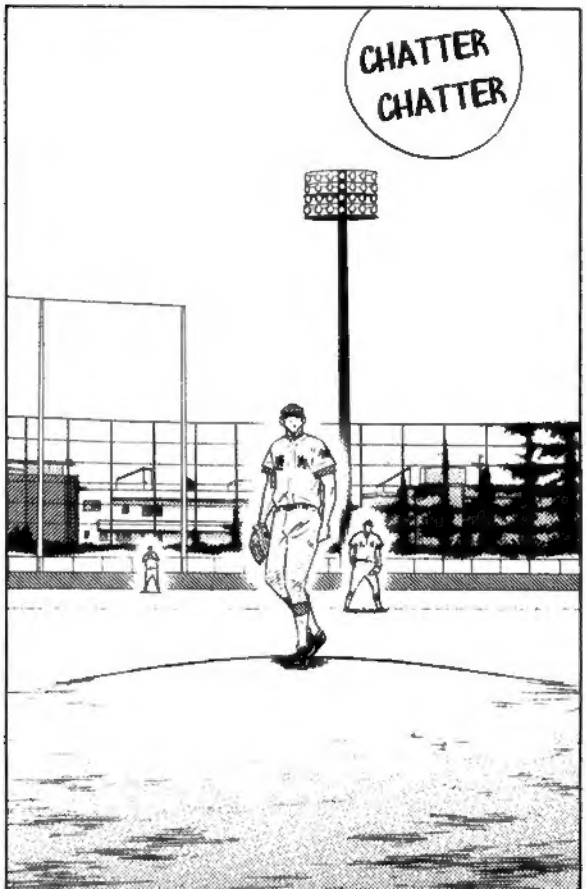

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A SMALL NUMBER.
BUT HIS FORCE HASN'T DROPPED!




COACH...


KAWA-KAMIIII!
TWO OUTS!


FIGHT THEM!
SHOW THEM YOUR SASAZAKI SPIRIT!


CHATTER CHATTER


!





21 The Normal Kawato (End)

■ジャンプ・コミックス

ROOKIES

21普通の川藤

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